

Bay Area Reporter

VOL. XXIII NO. 51 DECEMBER 23, 1993

395 NINTH ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

The Bay Area Reporter Salutes Christmas

From a Lesbian and Gay Perspective

by Animal J. Smith

And the angel said unto them, Fear not . . .

Midnight, Christmas Eve, 1986. Same old story from Luke Chapter two, read at the candlelight service, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, O'Farrell and Franklin. When I entered the church that night, I thought I was a straight boy. New in town, I sat in the back pew, troubled and trembling. As the communion table was prepared, I got up and quietly snuck out. By the time my feet hit Franklin Street, I knew where I belonged — and it wasn't at Christ's birth, or Christ's church. Same old story. Like so many of us, I turned my back to Christ in order to come out.

(Continued on page 15)

1993 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

by Dennis Conkin

Just three days after the new year began, 1993 was off to an angry start for many lesbian and gay San Franciscans — particularly lesbian Supervisor Roberta Achtenberg — after the Board of Supervisors failed to override Mayor Frank Jordan's Christmas Eve veto of Achtenberg's Bank of America resolution.

That measure called for the city to divest \$6 million in funds from the bank because it resumed granting charitable contributions to the anti-gay Boy Scouts of America.

Achtenberg called Jordan's veto message "patronizing and one of the most condescending" she had ever witnessed in her political career.

The Board needed eight votes to override Jordan's veto but could only line up seven. Leaders of groups such as Delancey Street, a drug treatment facility, and the non-profit Suicide Prevention, which receive BofA charitable support, were vocal in opposing the resolution.

Jordan said the measure wasn't prudent and that BofA had been a "good corporate citizen." Opponents of the measure also argued that the Bank had the right to do whatever it wanted with its corporate profits.

Classical dancer Rudolph Nureyev died of AIDS on January 6, at the age of 54, in Paris, France.

San Francisco police homicide inspectors were seeking clues in the slaying of Tony Matthewson, a 26-year-old homeless gay man with a history of drug problems. The victim had been found slain execution style, with a single bullet to his head, and police said that they believed he was killed in the commission of a sex act on Clementina Street near Second Street.

The Bay Area Reporter broke the story of the arrest of Abdelkadir Kalouche for the December 10 murder of Mark Stadlerman, a gay man who frequented the Campus Theatre in the Tenderloin. Police arrested the suspect in Los Angeles and he was extradited to stand trial in the homicide.

The Lesbian and Gay Bands of America were gearing up for the inaugural of President Bill Clinton. The national band, made up of members from 23 such bands across the country, had applied to play at the inaugural and would be one of 15 acts providing entertainment before the inaugural parade.

Former AIDS emergency Fund "volunteer" Charline Elaine McCain was arrested in Lexington, Kentucky, for the 1990 theft of almost \$8,000 in change from the AEF. McCain embezzled the funds over a four month period while she performed some

(Continued on page 24)



Santa and Susan

Lesbian Latina Supervisor Susan Leal accompanied Saint Nick on a visit to children in a Head Start program in Bernal Heights last week.

(Photo: Judi Parks)

Meinhold Goes Back to Work; USA Goes Back to Discriminating

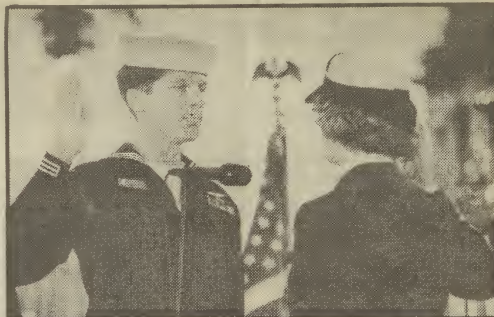
by Bob Roehr

On Thursday, September 16, after Petty Officer Keith Meinhold stood on the steps of San Francisco City Hall and took the oath of office for his latest tour of duty in the Navy, he went off to the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals to hear oral arguments over whether he should be allowed to stay there. At about the same time, President Clinton was in Washington, announcing his choice to become the new Secretary of Defense, retired Admiral Bobby Inman.

An odder couple would be hard to imagine, but those actions wed Inman and Meinhold together in ways that will affect both parties — and others — for years.

A great photo opportunity

Meinhold started off his day with a great photo opportunity, taking the oath of office for his latest reenlistment. Swearing him in was



Once more with feeling: Lt. Zoe Dunning (right) administers the oath of office to Naval Petty Officer Keith Meinhold on the steps of City Hall last week.

(Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland)

Lieutenant Zoe Dunning, a lesbian naval reserve officer in the middle of her own fight to keep from being discharged. In the background was the banner of the Alexander Hamilton Post 440 of the American Legion, a gay and lesbian veterans group. An

hour later he was at the courthouse.

John McGuire, Meinhold's attorney, thought the arguments went well. He said they had drawn a three-judge panel that was considered "moderate" by most observers.

(Continued on page 23)

Sign Up Now for Summit of Gay and Lesbian Americans

by Marghe Covino

It's been said that what gay and lesbian Americans really need is a good town hall meeting where everyone can get to know each other, hash things out, and establish priorities and plans. Now it looks as if they may get one. With the optimistic words, "We hope that advocates from beyond the Washington beltway realize they are our best

hope for the future," Steven Reichert, spokesperson for the newly organized Gay and Lesbian Americans, an-

January 15 to 17, 1994. For those who will not be able to make the trip to Washington, the cable network C-SPAN will



nounced an open summit meeting to take place in Washington, D.C. from Jan-

broadcast the summit across the country, an unprecedented

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First of Two Sections

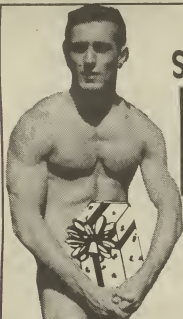
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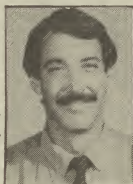
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Bear brigade

No, it's not the Teddy bears' picnic (not in this weather). Volunteers from the Godfather Service Fund push their wares on an unsuspecting public at a stand on Castro Street.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

Midler's New Year's Eve Benefit? Don't Bette on It.

by Dennis Conkin

A generous act by superstar Bette Midler to raise funds for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation during her 1993 New Year's concert has caused some confusion among Midler fans.

Some fans thought that proceeds from all tickets to the gala event — which sold from \$75-\$500 — would go to SFAF. But while Midler fans will be able to welcome the New Year with the irrepressible entertainer, the only tickets that will benefit the AIDS Foundation are the \$500 preferred seating tickets.

Midler has been adding the preferred ticket seating and donating the proceeds from their sales all across the country, said a spokesperson for All Girl Productions, which represents Midler during the tour.

The confusion about the fact that Midler will donate the proceeds from the preferred ticket seating, and that not all ticket proceeds are going to the AIDS Foundation, is "entirely understandable because of the way it was first reported," SFAF executive director Pat Christen told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

"It wasn't made very clear to people," she admitted.

One critic of the way the advertising of the event was handled by Bill Graham Productions said that many people who wanted to support the AIDS Foundation bought tickets for the concert — which were higher than two previous concerts scheduled the same week and were then surprised to learn their costly tickets were not raising money for the charity.

"When raising funds under the name of HIV and AIDS, not only your credibility but that of all AIDS charities is on the line and the 'ambiguity' must be resolved in favor of the charitable efforts cited," said James Emery in a letter to Bill Graham Productions.

A spokesman for Bill Graham Productions said that the ads proclaiming the New Years Bette Midler concert



Bountiful Bette: "Bette Midler is doing a very generous thing." — SFAF Executive Director Pat Christen

clearly indicate the \$500 preferred seats will benefit the AIDS Foundation.

A November 21 ad in the San Francisco *Chronicle* Datebook, however, was worded in a way that readers could become confused, as was an initial *Examiner* report on the event.

"This concert is a benefit performance in support of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. For information on \$500 preferred benefit seating and pre-show champagne reception, call 415/776-5500," the *Chronicle* ad read.

However, the tagline was changed on December 5 in another ad in the Datebook, in an attempt to clarify the confusion.

"The proceeds from the preferred seats are in support of the San Francisco AIDS

Foundation," the later ad read.

Christen told the *B.A.R.* that the confusion wasn't caused by Midler, but by sloppiness on the part of Bill Graham Presents and All Girls Productions — and that the AIDS Foundation had expressed some initial concern about the possible confusion but was told the production companies "would take care of it."

"Bette Midler is doing a very generous thing," Christen said.

Ten thousand tickets for Midler's December 29 and 30 tickets for the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium Concert were sold out in 90 minutes the day they went on sale.

The benefit's cheap seats also sold out quickly, but the \$500 tickets are still available. ▼

Last Minute Specials



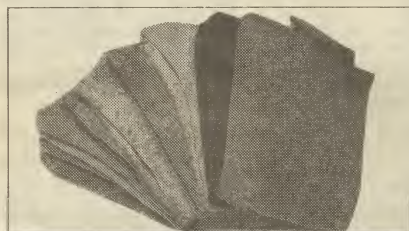
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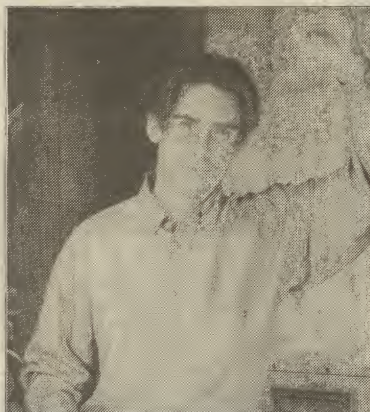
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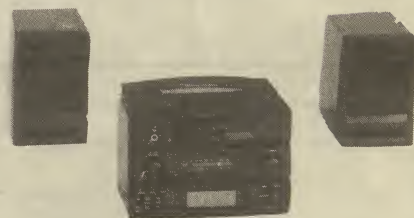


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Community News

Parade Gets New Date, Maybe a New Name, Too

by Dennis Conkin

The theme of the 1994 annual Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade and Celebration Committee to the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Freedom Day Parade and Celebration Committee. The proposal will be discussed at a town meeting on the evening of Wednesday, January 24, at Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka Street.

The final vote on the proposed name change will be at the March 13 General Parade Membership meeting. People with opinions about the name change can attend the January 12 meeting.

In other parade news, a motion has been made to change

the name of the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade and Celebration Committee to the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Freedom Day Parade and Celebration Committee. The proposal will be discussed at a town meeting on the evening of Wednesday, January 24, at Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka Street.

The final vote on the proposed name change will be at the March 13 General Parade Membership meeting.

People with opinions about the name change can attend the January 12 meeting.

ing, or they can become members of the parade committee and vote on the issue at the March 13 meeting. Non-members can earn voting privileges by attending both the February and March meetings.

General memberships are held the second Sunday of each month at the Parade Office, 205 13th Street, Room 3200, in the Construction Center at the corner of Mission Street.

For more information about the Parade plans and proposed name change, call the parade committee office at 864-FREE. ▼

Did SFPD Officers Intimidate Gay Brazilians?

by Dennis Conkin

A disc jockey at Bahia, the popular Brazilian club at 1600 Market Street, believes a homophobic neighbor has been lodging noise complaints about the venue, and says San Francisco police were "overly intimidating" in response on Tuesday, December 21.

According to deejay Clay Araujo, the complaints only occur on Tuesday nights — gay night — even though the club only plays pre-recorded music then, and often has live bands that make much more noise on other nights.

Araujo believes that the complaints are anti-gay in origin and said that gay officers who have come to the venue in response have seemed to agree.

Police handling of previous noise abatement complaints has been excellent in the past, according to Araujo,

but last week police responded by sending two squad cars with four officers to the site at about 12:30 a.m. An estimated 1250 people were on the dance floor at the time, Araujo said.

Araujo described the officers who responded to the scene as "aggressive and frightening" to many of the customers.

Officers ordered the dance music turned down — and turned down so low that most of the customers left.

"You could hear their tennis shoes on the dance floor," Araujo told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

One of the officers in particular was "really loud and obnoxious," Araujo said.

"He was threatening and intimidating and said that he was going to come back in half an hour and if the music wasn't turned down he was going to confiscate the sound equipment. Even one of the

other cops finally told him to calm down."

The club operates with a legal cabaret permit. Its Tuesday night events have been an institution in the gay community for over two years.

According to Araujo, "It seems to be a very obvious case of harassment." It seems to be working: Araujo said the owner and promoter of the club have suspended the gay night temporarily because they were so intimidated.

Araujo, the owner, and the promoter are all Brazilian — and understandably wary of the police; Araujo charged that San Francisco police officers responding to the incident took advantage of that timidity, and said he plans to file a complaint about the incident with the Office of Citizen Complaints.

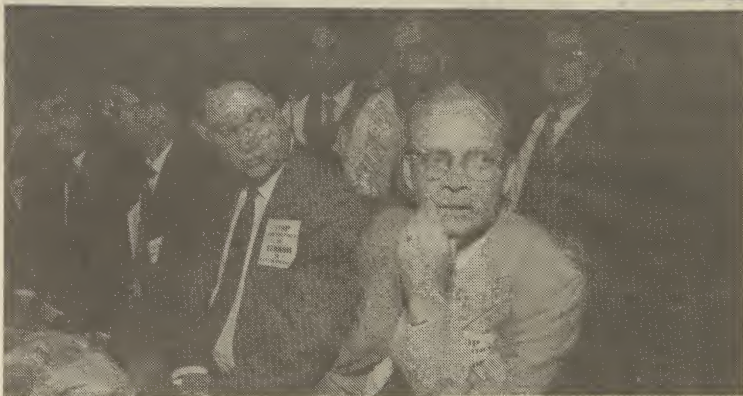
No one from the police department was available to comment on the incident at B.A.R. press time. ▼



Homage to the homeless dead

Demonstrators burn a list of the names of the 101 homeless people who died on the streets of San Francisco in 1993 at City Hall on Monday, December 20. (Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland)

Community News



Can you spot the ex-drag queen turned fundy? "Former gays" Schmid and Paulk (or vice-versa, they refused to say which was which), stars of Christian reparative therapy and the fundy hate film *The Gay Agenda*, bask in the limelight at a Nov. 8 Board of Supervisors meeting.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

The Gay Agenda Video Star Repudiates Sheldon's Tactics

by Dennis Anderson

John Paulk, nationally known as the "ex-drag queen" from the anti-gay video *The Gay Agenda*, has revealed publicly for the first time that he is angry with the way he was portrayed in that video — and he has some sound advice for "real Christians."

The somewhat demoralized and dispirited 30-year-old "ex-gay" drag queen has now revealed that if he had known *The Gay Agenda* would be presented as one-sided as it was, he "would never have done it."

"I'll never be able to live that down," declares Paulk.

Not only would he not have done it, says Paulk — who has decided to leave Love in Action — but he now states candidly that he "repudiates the tactics" in making the tape; that the statistics "were exaggerated;" and that he "would seriously question the statistical gathering method and ... the person who gathered [them]."

"What we [at LIA] try to present ... is a balanced, non-accusatory, non-defensive message," explains Paulk. "This video did not do that."

Now Paulk is not presenting anything at LIA, in fact. He has packed his bags after six years as administrator and has, along with his wife Anne, quietly slipped away to Oregon.

Paulk says that he and his wife "need to have time to get together" and "work out some things." One of those things might be that he confesses that he is still in the process of changing from gay to straight and says with a little hesitation that he has "a smidge of temptation periodically ... I know my [gay] desires were not a choice. I didn't choose to be attracted to men."

Paulk admits to a younger life full of "feelings of self-hatred and inadequacy," but now that he is married, he says that social acceptance and his "relationship with God" have taken the place of most of his "[gay] desire."

"I'm tired of talking about homosexuality, [and] I'm tired of giving my testimony," says Paulk with a sigh of relief. He admits that was all he did at LIA and is "worn-out" working full time with the issue.

When speaking about the religious right, he agrees that

there is a "consistency of overzealous distortions" within the religious propaganda, and that the motives behind some of their propaganda is "fear" and "hatred." Further, he now admits that "some" religious zealots are using this culture's deep-seated homophobia to their political and financial advantage. "We all have a right to believe whatever we want [including gays]," says Paulk, "and every one of us ... will have to answer to [our] God for the way we've handled things."

Paulk says with a little hesitation that he has "a smidge of temptation periodically."

Paulk has harsh words for the way Lou Sheldon, the venomous anti-gay fundamentalist christian head of the Traditional Values Coalition (TVC), has handled some things. Specifically referring to the November 8th incident at the San Francisco Board of Supervisors chambers where Sheldon accused a gay man of spitting on him, Paulk noted that the TVC was "intentionally baiting local gays."

"What a real Christian is," Paulk said, "is someone who walks in humility and grace."

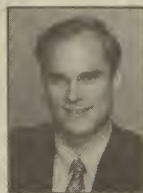
When asked if he was uneasy about Sheldon's possible reaction to Paulk's repudiation of a prime Sheldon propaganda tool, he replies, "I'm not worried about Lou. ... [Even though] I don't agree with his tactics... underneath all his exterior, he has a very soft heart and a very gentle spirit."

"But what happens, for whatever reasons unknown to me, he gets riled up under these settings. ... I'm hoping to influence him to be different."

In the meantime, Paulk admits one reason he is leaving LIA is that he doesn't want to be "lumped into one big kettle with the Lou Sheldons and the Jerry Falwells." He reinforced that statement in a November 27th letter to the *Marin Independent Journal*, saying he realizes "some

Christians use the name of God to spread hatred [and] prejudice against gays and lesbians who are satisfied with their sexual identities."

Although he stops short of endorsing gay and lesbian civil rights, Paulk does "defend homosexual people's right to live and work ... and be treated fairly as citizens of the United States." He ends with a plea for peace and "mutual respect for one another, even if we don't agree."▼



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Editorial

Check Out Those Labels

We've been shopping. At least, we've been checking out the labels in stores and elsewhere, seeing what's what.

Unfortunately, we find labels don't always tell the whole story. For proof of that, check out the Russian elections, where the population voted for "Liberal Democrats" (or so the party was named) but then wound up with disturbing far right crazies.

Here in America, the term "liberal Democrat" has been made into a swear word by conservative Republicans. So instead, our population tends to vote for "Christians" (or so they call themselves) and then wind up with disturbing far right crazies. Politics is politics, and self-made labels are not very valuable. Remember what Shakespeare had to say about what's in a name: Russia's Liberal Democrats are not really liberal or democratic, any more than San Francisco's Hamilton Square Baptist Church is a real church.

We bring this up because it is Christmas, and we hate to see the way the holiday has been ruined. Not only by commercialism, and by litigation, but by ornery fundies who try to exclude us from its wonder. All across America, people from our community will be avoiding holiday gatherings in their home towns, because those towns and states are under attack by power-drunk anti-gay forces. Of course, some of those gatherings will be joyless, so there's no loss there, but for many of our friends, the opposite is true: they will miss the bayberry and the smiles and the singing of "I Yam What I Yam" over Aunt Mildred's sweet potato concoction. And for some of them, the chance won't come again.

That's the problem with the "family values" tag, another self-made label that is essentially meaningless. If those who pretend to care about family values really did care, they would make it their business to make sure families weren't torn apart over something as trivial as sexual orientation. They would be repairing families' disagreements and misunderstandings, rather than instigating them.

During this holiday season, if you go to Midnight Mass — we will, with gay-identifying buttons pinned to our lapels — we would urge you to pray for the families that have been torn up this year; for the men and women who will be spending their first Christmas shut out from the hearthfire; and for those who will be alone on their last holiday.

Pray that next year will see the end to the anti-gay ballot measures sweeping the country, and the eviction from the White House of whoever keeps pouring poison into Bill Clinton's ear. Pray that the gay sons and daughters of our harshest critics — and they all seem to have one — repudiate the hatred of their parents. Pray that the epidemic becomes a medical, rather than political, crisis — better still, that it ceases altogether.

As for us, we're also going to pray that the much-detested recently-dumped Secretary of Defense Les Aspin stays for the rest of his life exactly as happy as he is today. He deserves it.

We had a longer list of prayers, but it's hard to find with all these shopping lists. As we said, we've been shopping.

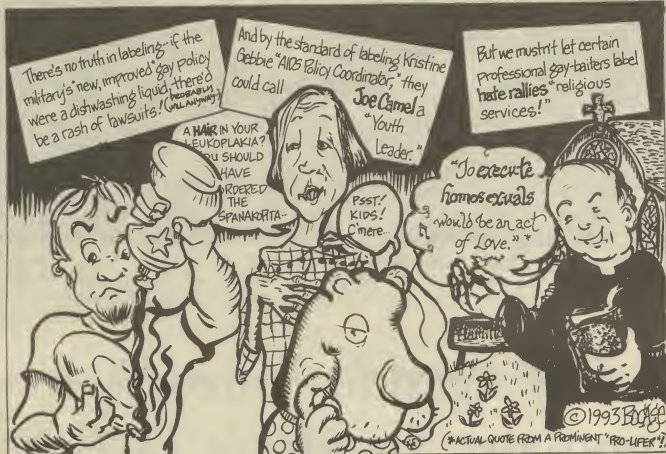
...And Some Stores, Too

Shopping, by the way, can be a good thing. We know this comes as no surprise to some, but this is for everyone else. Spending gay dollars in gay stores is a good way to make sure we in the community maintain our political base. This is particularly true at a time when the Emporium is fighting to weaken its protections for its gay employees and Nordstrom's is hauling men from its restrooms in shackles and parading them throughout the stores. Gay businesses don't do that, and successful gay stores have something else going for them: they contribute to gay organizations and to AIDS organizations at a time — 13 years into the epidemic — when many mainstream stores still don't.

Kate Bornstein visits some of the merchants on Castro Street in this issue of the B.A.R. — her report is on page 16 — and we would encourage our readers to do the same. California is still suffering from a terrible recession, and since everyone is shopping anyway, it's a friendly gesture to buy from a fellow traveler.

"Money," says the title character in *Hello, Dolly!*, "you should pardon the expression, is like manure. It should be spread around encouraging little things to grow." It seems to be manure-spreading time.

And on that note, happy holidays. ▼



Guest Opinion

Is Polly Klaas a Gay Issue?

by D. Curtis Wilkinson

This, or any other gay and lesbian publication, is probably the last place you expected to see anything on the Polly Klaas kidnapping. However, as the aftermath wears down, there are some thoughts that come to the mind of this gay writer about how this particular case, or any like it, contains lessons for the gay and lesbian community.

We are a dozen years into the AIDS epidemic, and still fighting for adequate funding and leadership. In excess of \$350,000 was poured into the Polly Klaas Foundation inside of three months. There is an undeniable imbalance between the support shown for one little girl versus the struggle faced by the millions of us who are gay and lesbian, which includes a great number of those of us living with HIV and AIDS.

Some may see this as a bitter piece written by someone who could not possibly understand a parent's worst fear. No, I have no children of my own. But there are some nasty realities that have to be looked at in this case and how it pertains to the struggle we face for civil and social equality. Don't get me wrong; the kidnapping and murder of Polly Klaas, or any child, is a tragedy. Eve Nichol, Marc Klaas, and the people of Petaluma have more than enough reason to be in grief and anger.

The warning for the rest of us is that no matter what milestones we pass in legislation or social opinion, we are still very easily discarded by the broader society when there is a threat to that which is perceived as "All-American" traditions. In this case the media blitz after the kidnapping of a little girl from her bedroom in a sleepy bedroom town went beyond compassion for a town that banded together

for a common cause, to become a national media campaign for "traditional family values."

The same people who use the term "family values" say that we, as gay and lesbian people, are unfit parents, sexual deviants, and not to be trusted in positions with close proximity to children or national security. It is statistically known that most molesters are heterosexual men, and statistically logical to conclude that within those 30,000 volunteers, some of them had to be gay men and lesbians. Even so, there are people in this country — some with political and legislative power — that see the gay and lesbian community as being in league or comparable to Polly Klaas's kidnapper.

Nearly 25 years after the Stonewall riots that effectively marked the birth of the gay and lesbian struggle in the United States, half the states in the union still use archaic sodomy laws to torment and persecute gay and lesbian citizens. For an example of the latter, look at the Virginia case of Sandra Bottoms, a woman who lost custody of her son to her own mother because she is a lesbian. The presiding judge cited Bottoms's sex acts — which fall under Virginia's legal definition of sodomy — to deem her an unfit mother. He then awarded custody of the child to a woman who allowed the sexual abuse of her own daughter 20 years earlier.

After two months of one child's disappearance, there is already legislation on the table to toughen laws for repeat offenders, but we still have a military ban on gay and lesbian service members, and there is no official recognition of our relationships in any state (but keep your eyes on Hawaii). We have to face, and thereby begin to change, the reality that we are still viewed as an easy cast-off when "traditional family values" appear to be threatened. ▼

There is an imbalance between the support shown for one little girl, versus the struggle faced by the millions of us who are gay and lesbian.

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Letters

Gross, Bigoted Generalizations

Gross, bigoted generalizations and verbal abuse of gay men — written by a lesbian — appearing in San Francisco's leading queer paper. Must be a Twilight Zone episode written by Sen. Jesse Helms — right? Or maybe some female fundie cut off her laquered and teased "do," bought some Doc Martin boots and multiple piercings and has infiltrated CUAV posing as a lesbian so she can subvert the gay rights movement by sowing dissension and mistrust? How else can you explain the inexcusable column "Brothers — Or Oppressors" recently appearing under the CUAV Community Watch banner? Serious discussion of genuine issues? Wrong again! It's only more of the old "all men are pigs" bullshit.

There is an utter lack of logic and thought, not to mention the lack of sensitivity and reality, behind that column. For example, gay men are being "unsupportive" because there are so few lesbian bars and clubs. At the same time, we're now not supposed to go to the existing clubs because we take up too much space on the dance floor. I suppose we're expected to simply mail them a check once a month for the amount we would have spent on cover charges and drinks.

The lack of lesbian oriented spaces is a serious issue and it deserves better thought than the column in question supplies. Why do so many lesbian bars close? Are they not making enough money? If this is the case, then it's not the fault of gay men; even when we do dare visit women's bars — our (generalized) attitude toward alcohol consumption is certainly lucrative, though not very healthy. Is because of the way they're promoted or designed? Perhaps the "bar scene" is not really the atmosphere enough lesbians are comfortable in and a new format needs to be created, one that better serves women and that they will support. But the CUAV article does not seek solutions; the contextual intent is only to bash fags, to make groundless accusations that split the community. Lesbians who want public places to socialize should be exploring and discovering formats that are both financially feasible and comfortable for them as well.

As casualties of stereotyping, none of us should be doing it. Yet, throughout the article, the writer says "gay men" this and "gay men" that, without quantifying or qualifying her statements. As written, her statements mean that absolutely all gay men are doing whatever she's angry about, or not doing what she thinks we should be doing. As written, her statements are flat out wrong — not all gay men are rude to lesbians and not all gay men ignore abuse directed at lesbians.

"Don't try to tell us our reality isn't real" — why not? What if it isn't? Do we all have to participate in your delusions? Or does your gender and sexuality automatically make you right, no matter what idiosyncrasy you espouse? Most of the material for the complaints is subjective and the writer needs to remember that not every bad thing that happens to them happens because they're lesbian.

The women at CUAV who contributed to this article should apologize to the community, retract their hit piece and submit a new article that addresses the real issues (like the creation and maintenance of women's spaces or how to safely interrupt and quell someone who is verbally abusive in public) without indulging in nasty generalizations, abusive false accusations and irresponsible threats. Then we can all work together, combining the business experience in running bars and clubs that many gay men have with the enthusiasm and need for their own space that so many lesbians have evinced.

Darr Sandberg
San Francisco

Sex, Religion and Politics

I commend you on your editorial, "Bible Studies." Recently an apparently intelligent gay man told me, "I don't want to know what Lou Sheldon has to say. I'm not going to believe him no matter what he says." It is sad that in our community there are still ostriches with their heads in the sand.

For those who do want to take action in response to the religious right, there is a group in San Francisco, run by members of the lesbian and gay community and their friends that are responding to the right-wing religious movement.

The organization is called "United in Spirit," and it is an ecumenical group that is currently organizing at the grass roots level to conduct letter writing campaigns and set up phone trees. They can use dedicated and interested volunteers as well as donations.

Contact persons are Rev. Mickey Williamson at the First Congregational Church 392-7461; Armand Krefit 824-5142; or Jeff Johnson 621-1635.

Members of this group have been at City Hall meetings and elsewhere, including the demonstrations at Hamilton Square Baptist Church. They are also active in the peace and justice movements in the City and around the country.

Finally, I would encourage all of you to attend the seminars on Sex, Religion and Politics that the First Congregational Church is offering during December and January in order to better understand the issues and obtain the information needed to reply intelligently to the propaganda being disseminated by the religious right.

Donald Ashley
San Francisco

My Very Real Needs

In response to the CUAV commentary in your Dec. 2 issue, I am requesting anonymity — not because I am ashamed of my position but because I legitimately fear reprisal. I am a well-respected mental health provider and previous criticism of CUAV resulted in retributive behavior.

It has always saddened me that since Randy Schell left CUAV a few years ago, the focus of true advocacy for the victims went with him. The notion that the agency existed primarily to serve the victims of gaybashing, with other services secondary, exists no more. When assaults against all minorities are increasing at an alarming rate throughout the country, CUAV turns its energy and attention only to internal divisiveness.

Women and men working together to serve those assaulted, their loved ones and the community as a whole, is the charge of this agency. Though there is quantitative documentation that those who are assaulted and untreated are negatively affected for the remainder of their lives, CUAV neither encourages nor offers mental health services.

There is no question that we have difficulties in the gay community. The first being that there isn't a forum for many members — only certain kinds of women, certain members of minorities, certain kinds of white men.

As a community, we must demand that our community agencies actually serve us. Who wants to report to an agency that offers no real services for the effects of the assault? CUAV is the best in the country and it is seriously inadequate. Its efficacy has been questioned for years.

If I am bashed I don't personally care if it's a white man, Asian, bisexual or African-American transgender person who sits opposite me — as long as their primary purpose is not their agency's internal political agenda, but my very real and immediate personal needs.

A Concerned Member of the Community
San Francisco

Wild-Eyed (Male) Feminist

Reading recent letters to the editor in B.A.R. makes me wonder if anyone in the lesbian/gay communities in San Francisco have internalized anything but patriarchal power and homophobia. A number have given nominal lip service to feminist ideas but have a long way to go in proving that they live by them. Feminism interrupts — plain and simple. I applaud Broad Nation and CUAV for dynamically pointing out gay male misogyny and male privilege in general. I think, however, that interruption is only effective when you internalize the message first. What feminism does, in part, is point out the connectedness of gender/race/class oppression. We have each different amounts of power in this culture.

Stooping to a "my suffering is worse than yours" argument seems to come more from a lack of self-analysis than a political agenda. When Broad Nation writes "women with AIDS suffer more than gay men" I wonder why anyone claiming to speak from a reasonable position would need to be so crass.

I could be as obtuse and suggest that Kimberly Bergalis had an easier time than Keith — a Native American heroin addict in Old Orchard Beach, Maine — but I will not.

On the other side, we have the wisdom of John Morrison and Marshall Cason. Cason tries to make us think that he knows what he's talking about by using names of avowed feminists. Good try, but some of us boys have done our research and know that Mackinnon and Dworkin aren't really all that similar, nor are they on the "fringe." Or did he mean to imply that feminism is on the fringe? Morrison hits us with the "fact" that boys are most often molested by women. Quite amazing, considering that U.S. Government surveys have shown that 95-97 percent of child molesters are straight men. It seems that most of Morrison's dubious "facts" are meant to imply that men are usually the victims of women-induced violence. One of his points of reference is a bible of the homophobic, reactionary men's movement. With gay boys like this, who needs Lou Sheldon? Count me among the "wild-eyed feminists."

Joe McLaughlin
San Francisco

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Letters must be signed; anonymous letters will not be published. Please include your mailing address and telephone number so we may verify your letter — this information will not be published.

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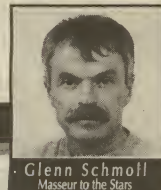
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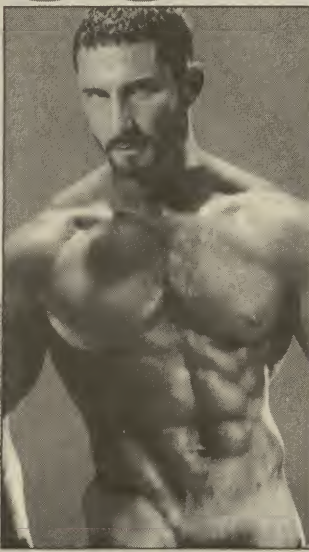
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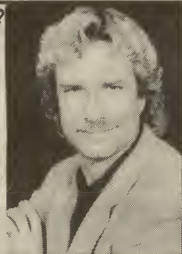
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Letters

Political Dropout Tells Why

I'd been working the political circles of this "community" since showing up, rather naively, for the first night of the ARCAIDS Vigil in October, 1985. Over the years, I helped shape the early politics of AIDS activism by working to bring leftist politics into the realm of the AIDS world, stressing the need to embrace other movements in our struggle to beat this disease. After all, it seemed pretty logical to me (and still does) that just as homophobia was playing a rabid role in spreading AIDS, so might racism, sexism and class differences. That was then — and this is now, and I'm out of the political process.

Recently, I attended a political event organized by the Harvey Milk Club, my first political thing in months and quickly was reminded why I had dropped out. In the course of the evening, one of the speakers in the midst of a room full of mostly gay white men, felt compelled to explain that one reason they were involved in the club was because someone who wasn't a GWM should be. The way this was delivered could have been taken as an insult to all those GWM in the room. It certainly was by me. Just moments after writing out my check to finance the coffers of the Milk Club, I was being reminded that my presence was only grudgingly acceptable.

Certainly not the only reason, but a major part of my dropping out of leftist, "politically correct," organizing in this "community" is because I am tired of being made to feel like the dirty uncle who everyone feels they must accommodate, but would just as soon he send the check by mail and avoid showing up at functions.

Ironic, isn't it, that the very "community" I fled into has come to represent for me those very things I was determined to leave behind. Having grown up in a small town where conformity was everything, I needed to be somewhere where I wouldn't be demeaned for who I am. Imagine my surprise to discover that in San Francisco, having a dick between my legs and white skin, both of which — like being gay — I didn't choose, was something for which I would be ridiculed and insulted.

This whole issue came to a head for me months ago when I attended, along with hundreds of others, an event billed as a "town meeting" to ask questions of Mayor Jordan. The majority of people who showed were us dirty uncles: GWM. The moderators decided in advance that in order to make sure certain women and people of color were heard from, we had to be silenced.

A process was announced that basically told the GWM in the room to sit down, shut up and maybe you'll be called upon. Talk about disempowering people for who they are! Surely if the organizers had wanted to be certain that all people felt comfortable to ask questions, they could accomplish this task without insulting over half the room. It was a cheap shot and while a lot of GWM did get to ask questions, I felt demeaned and insulted within my own "community." After the meeting, when I expressed these concerns to the organizers, my commitment to a "progressive agenda" was immediately questioned.

Some of you will dismiss my comments as coming from a misogynist, racist bigot. Those who know me will hopefully know better about who I am and perhaps stop and examine why we have chosen to demean GWM in our "community." Just ask yourselves how many times you've uttered that phrase, "gay white men" in a less than flattering tone and figure out who is, in fact, guilty of being insensitive to a segment of our "community."

Keith Griffith
San Francisco

Apple of Our Eye

The following letter was faxed to Glenn Barber, VP, Real Estate, Construction & Facilities, Apple Computer Co.:

I just wanted to congratulate you and thank Apple Computer Co. for your courageous stand in Texas. I saw the national news last night and it felt like the first real breakthrough in the gay-rights movement, where the might of a great corporation was actually on our side and gambled with its bottom line in the interests of human concerns. After all the hate that has been spewed around on the national stage, with us (gay men and lesbians) as the target, it brought tears to my eyes to see a for-profit concern take a stand. As a proud 10-year Apple user and advocate, arguing that Apple was the more human machine (I actually started on a LISA!), I now see that it is the more human company as well.

I must admit, I'm sorry the brutal might of the economic promise of jobs to make the City Council relent from its homophobia, rather than softer Christian kindness, but so be it. In the struggle to get equal access to rights and benefits for gay couples, in the fight against the power-hungry fundamentalist right wing, which is mining latent homophobia to build its power, the arguments of practically-minded businessmen may prove the most persuasive.

I am proud to be an Apple customer; you should be proud to be an Apple employee. On behalf of the thousands of gay men and women who were thrilled and moved by the news from Texas, I thank you and the courageous management of Apple.

Curt Sanburn
San Francisco

This Is Not a Rave

What is happening to the dance clubs in this city? A whole group of us ventured out last Saturday night to Rhythm looking forward to a night of dancing and good music. NOT! I have never in my life heard such hard edged, angry, so-called music in my entire life. Actually, it should not even be called "music." Not once did I hear, even remotely, an instrument that was recognizable; in fact, I seriously think that there were simply no instruments at all, just a lot of angry, migraine-giving sounds. If you plan to go to these clubs in the future, I suggest you take a bottle of Advil with you. I sure wished I had some last week!

The promoters of these clubs have been subjecting us to this noise for far too long now and we are fed up! There is a large silent majority of us who have supported these clubs for the past decade who now find we are given nothing back for all our support. It seems they are more interested in cashing in on the commercial "new" crowd to rake in their dollars (the very same people who drink — and heaven forbid! — smoke cigarettes on the dance floor!), a truly disgusting and dangerous habit.

Wake up and smell the coffee, San Francisco. Nowhere else in the country are they playing this trash. Susan Morabito of New York doesn't play it; Paul Stewart of Boston doesn't play it, nor does Buc from Atlanta, all of them considered to be among the top DJs in the country.

These DJs still know the art of music storytelling and take us on a journey. Seems like this new breed of DJs currently at clubs like Rhythm have never known this art. In fact, I watched them work for some time that evening and they never even looked at the dance floor, let alone try to create some magic on it! We know that is the only city that insists on playing this garbage. And the only time we get to hear decent new music is if we go to these other cities or wait for the Real Bad Party once a year. Now, they know how to put on a party! Oh by the way, if you do decide to venture out onto the dance floor, good luck. You won't have to move your feet that much as the bass is up so high that the floor vibrates to such a degree that you hardly have to move — the noise does all the work for you!

Promoters please, please hear our plea for help and fairness! We know there are a couple of great DJs in this city who play wonderful new music (not disco!), whom you never give a chance to play, even though we all want to hear them at the clubs. Give us a break before you break our ear drums and our souls!

Names Withheld By Request
San Francisco

Sissy Pride

Roxie Rosen's recent article, "Have a Very Butch Christmas" though I'm sure was meant to be lighthearted and fun, struck a sour note with me.

Having been an intelligent and artistic child uninterested in most sports, I am enraged knowing that having spent the first 18 years of my life trying to escape the oppression of masculine conformity that I should now have to face that as an adult, from other queers. Growing up, according to my brothers, I was a fag, a sissy, a femme, a pussy, a queer and a homo because I wouldn't play baseball or football with them. On occasion, my stepfather would make me play, then stand by and smile as the barrage of insults continued. Those words are mine now.

By saying that the image of gays as wispy, effeminate poofs has been blasted to bits, you discount a large number in this "community" who happen to fit that bill but whom you obviously wish to ignore. That image does have validity, as does the hyper-masculine one also portrayed by some gay men.

Exercise and good nutrition are worthy of pursuit and I am very happy that any in our community choose to make it an important part of their lives. This does not, however, make them better people and worthy of Poster Child status for the rest of us. And besides, it has been my experience that a lot of those athletic guys are just bigger sissies with bigger muscles.

Every week, someone begs for the rest of us to understand and come together as a "community," but usually on certain terms. "Let's come together my way." Please remember that we are not a community of like-minded people. We are not the same religion, the same color, the same gender, the same body type, the same politics or even the same orientations. The one quality that we do all share, is that we are all different, all queer.

Matthew Landis
San Francisco

Ed. Note: No offense was intended. We think it is a positive thing to have any stereotype blasted to bits, whether pertaining to this community or any other. And we adore our wispy poof friends as much as our Iron Johns. Just because we're glad that all gay men are no longer thought of as beauticians and interior decorators means that we would appreciate living in a world devoid of either.

1994 State Races Gear Up

As 1993 rolls to a close and politics, thanks to the current holiday season, is far from the minds of most voters, those who live and breathe the great game will tell you that the expected bitter races for state constitutional offices are well under way for next year's general elections. Governor Pete Wilson, the Republican incumbent, met with a group of reporters in Sacramento last week to assure everyone that he plans a hard-fought effort to keep his job next November and, in the process of doing so, took a swipe at both state Treasurer Kathleen Brown and Insurance Chief John Garamendi, the two Democrats after their party's nomination to take on the tough Wilson.

Although currently trailing both Brown and Garamendi by double digits in most statewide polls, Wilson has



State Controller and senatorial candidate Gray Davis

With Gray Davis running for lieutenant governor, at least three Democrats are running for his position: Salinas Assemblymember Rusty Areias, Alameda County Supervisor Don Perata, and current Board of Equalization member Brad Sherman. Areias would currently have to be considered the favorite in that race. Former Assemblyman Tom McClintock of Ventura County, a political enemy of Pete Wilson and a darling of the state GOP's far right, is expected to be the GOP nominee for controller.

Former state Democratic chairman Phil Angelides will battle state Senate President Pro Tem David Roberti of Los Angeles for their party's nomination for state treasurer, while Board of Equalization member Matt Fong (the son of Secretary of State March Fong Eu) is expected to be the Republican nominee for state treasurer.



SPI hopeful Delaine Eastin.

As for the other statewide offices, the players are beginning to shake down. It looks like Gray Davis, the current state controller, will be the Democratic nominee to replace retiring Lt. Governor Leo McCarthy. Davis could face Republican Sonny Bono, the anti-gay former mayor of Palm Springs, next November unless the GOP comes up with a big-name candidate to take Bono on in the June primary.

Republican incumbent Attorney General Dan Lungren, another anti-gay right winger, is unlikely to meet any GOP opposition and will likely face a November rematch with San Francisco District Attorney Arlo Smith. Smith first confronts an unknown state assemblyman, Orange County's Tom Unberg, for the Democratic Party's nomination in June. With his statewide name recognition, Smith should easily win the contest. He promises another hard fight against Lungren in November.

For secretary of state, the incumbent March Fong Eu is expected to resign shortly to become ambassador to Micronesia and has endorsed her top deputy, Tony Miller, as her successor. Former L.A. Councilman Michael Woo has formally announced for this post as well, and Assemblymembers Jackie Speier of San Mateo County and Gwen Moore of Los Angeles are expected to enter this one as well. Miller, the first announced gay statewide candidate, is clearly the most qualified and should be the candidate to beat in the June Democratic primary. To date, no Republican candidates have announced for the post.

first-term millionaire Rep. Michael Huffington of Long Beach, the expected Republican nominee. 1994 isn't officially even here yet, but all these candidates are off and running!

Politics and poker

Is it just me or has anyone else noticed that Board of Supes President Angela Alioto conveniently manages to tag the "lesbian" label on Carole Migden just about every time she mentions her name to the press. She did it again last week when announcing that she was removing Migden from the Finance Committee and replacing her with Tom Hsieh. (We know, Angela, we know.)

Incidentally, it looks like the African-American community could have a strong supe candidate in Health Commission President Arthur Jackson. Meanwhile, Board of Education Prez Tom Ammiano keeps getting high ratings in all the polls I have heard about. With an Ammiano victory and wins by Supervisors Leal and Migden, the gay/lesbian community should be back to full strength on the Board after next November.

Former San Jose Mayor Tom McEnery apparently had consultants Clint Reilly and Richie Ross take a look at a possible race for state superintendent of public instruction for him. He must not have liked what they saw — he's not running.

In Arizona? Northern Arizona University officials announced in Phoenix last week that they'll offer a course on transsexualism next semester, despite GOP Governor Symington's criticism that the course is an "obscene gesture" toward taxpayers who fund the school.

And in Baltimore, gay couples will get the same health and family benefits as married people do, the Board of Estimates ruled. Domestic partners of city employees won't be able to take advantage of the policy until 1995, though.

Bill Clinton, as the first year of his presidency winds down, finds himself with whopping 57 percent approval rating, one of the best in recent history. These same voters, however, seem to have a dim view of Congress. Many congressional incumbents of both parties are looking at defeat next year.

A close friend of mine is unfortunately losing a battle with the wretched AIDS and is currently at Coming Home Hospice. I have visited there daily of late and continue to be amazed at the work of the nurses and staff. The people I have come to know at Coming Home are truly God's own — the kindest, most caring, wonderful group any place. Though the caretakers and management staff at Coming Home continue to hold their heads high and hope for the best, the place is nearing financial despair, with the jobs of some of those so badly needed there in jeopardy. I know we all have our favorites among the many AIDS organizations, but please, if you possibly can, sit down and write a check this holiday season — no matter how large or small — to Coming Home Hospice, 115 Diamond Street, San Francisco, CA, 94114. ▼

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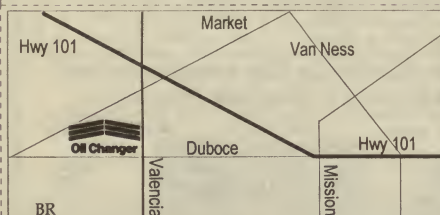


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The Outer Limit

Attractive Alternatives

by Rachel Pepper

Since it's the end of '93, I'm hoping you won't mind being subjected to my own particular "best of" list. Although there were certainly many fields from which to choose, I decided to go with music, since this was a banner year for women's bands. From Sweet Honey in the Rock, an African-American a cappella group, to 7 Year Bitch, a grunge quartet from Seattle, here they are, in order of (my) preference: The Best Alternative Women's Albums of '93.

Tiger Trap
Tiger Trap
R Records

Hailing from Sacramento, these four gals — Rose, Angela, Jen and Heather — have been making frequent concert stops in San Francisco recently. Have you seen them yet? They're certainly getting better and better live, developing musically without losing any of their charm. On first listen, their debut full-length album won my heart, and it's remained a favorite throughout the year. If only radio would get hip and play tunes like "Puzzle Pieces" and "You and Me," the world would be a better place.

Jane Siberry
When I Was a Boy
Reprise

Jane's in her finest form ever here, and having followed her career since her



The women of 7 Year Bitch, composers of that pop ditty, "Dead Men Don't Rape."
 (Photo: David Hawkes)

first album more than ten years ago, I know of what I speak. Having basically decided to stop trying to please record company executives, Jane's ironically made her most commercially accessible album yet, while managing to retain her magical Siberish quirkiness in the process. Jane also appears to have gone through some sort of spiritual transformation while recording this album. The best songs are about angels and the beauty of love, as evidenced on cuts like "Calling All Angels" (guest starring kd lang) and "Love is Everything."

7 Year Bitch
Sick 'Em
CZ Records

The release date on this album is 1992, but we'll let it slip in here all the same, since it really didn't get much notice till this year. 7 Year Bitch socks it to ya on their first full-length release, with songs like "Dead Men Don't Rape" and "In Lust You Trust." Sure they're grungy, sure they're angry, sure they're political, sure they're all women. Not too hard to figure out why I like them, is it? Now, if only lead singer Selene Vigil were a dyke. Oh, well, guess you can't have everything.

Cub
Betti-Cola
Mint Records

For anyone who ever loved the Marine Girls, lament no more; they've been reborn and channeled through these Vancouver women in the form of Cub. Robynn, Lisa and Neko, with help from drummer Valerie, prove that there is West Coast music life outside of Seattle. Their sparse acoustic sound and wily sense of humor propel them through a 24-song compilation that includes all their earlier work and some new songs, too. My favorite cut is the cover of "Surfer Girl" (which I like to sing to

my boogie-boarding girlfriend), but "Motel 6," "A Picnic," and "Little Star" rule as well. Goddess knows where you'll find this album in the U.S. since alternative Canadian music is pretty hard to find, but you can write them directly at Mint Records, 699-810 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC V5Z 4C9.

Djur Djura
Voice of Silence
Luaka Bop

What a life this amazing woman has had! Best-selling author, filmmaker and singer, Djura has struggled against patriarchal violations against her body and soul since childhood, but always persevered. First rejected for being born a girl, then beaten by her father and brothers, then kept in solitary confinement for her feminist views, she nevertheless went on to become an accomplished musician in France, her adopted country. Djura, born a member of the Kabyle tribe of Berbers in Algeria, writes songs about the continuing struggle of women in North African societies and the liberation of Algeria. As a group, Djur Djura has been performing together since 1977, but this collection, compiled by David Byrne, is the first album of Djura's work available in the U.S. Here, her high, clear voice is surrounded by a chorus of voices and instruments, including guitars, violins, flutes, drums, and an oboe.

Sweet Honey in the Rock
Still on the Journey
Earthbeat Records

Kind of a greatest hits album, this Sweet Honey effort is just the latest in a long line of wonderful records produced by the group over the years. Founded by Bernice Johnson Reagon to give voice to African-American women's concerns, Sweet Honey has become known for using their a cappella voices to deliver a

(Continued on next page)

Health & Community

ACT UP Golden Gate Meetings are Tuesdays, 7pm. 584B Castro. Discuss treatment issues, possible actions and recommendations. 252-9200.

ACT UP SF Special meeting Jan. 6 regarding prison conditions at Chowchilla prison, a women's facility with 60 PW/HIVs and no doctor. Meets every Thursday at 7:30pm, in the Women's Building, 3543 18th St., 3rd Fl. 621-0291.

AIDS/HIV Nightline Seeks volunteers to staff phones. Call Rolph or Dave at 752-4866.

Adult Children of Alcoholics Gay & lesbian support group meets Wednesdays, 8-9:30pm, at MCC, Room 104, 150 Eureka St. All are welcome.

Alexander Hamilton Post 448 Lesbian & gay veterans in the American Legion meet the third Thursday of each month. 7pm. Room 202, War Memorial Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness. 431-1413.

Alternative Alcohol Problem Fellowship Tuesdays, 8-9:30pm. 398-6594.

Anger & Conflict in Relationships Eight week course in anger, aggression, and how to overcome relationship problems. Tuesday eves, 6:30pm, starting Jan. 18, Everett Middle School, 450 Church. 585-5150.

Bay Area Young Positives HIV support group for young people of color. Weekly meetings, activities. Every Wednesday, 7pm. 25 Van Ness, 5th Fl. 487-1616.

Brothers Network (Bay Area HIV Support & Education Services) Drop-in support groups, closed groups as well. 625 O'Farrell. 749-6714.

Dignity SF Eucharist every Sun., 5:30pm. Presbyterian Church, 1329 7th Ave. 681-2491.

Francis of Assisi Community Subsidized housing facility for mobility-impaired and wheelchair users is now taking applications for housing. 621-4092 (TT 1-800-755-2929).

Freshstart Quit Smoking 6-8pm, Tuesdays & Thursdays at St. Mary's Hospital and Medical Center, 450 Stanyan. \$24.50. 394-7100.

Gay Men Connecting With Spirit Workshop for gay/bi men using storytelling to explore spirituality. Jan. 14-16. Venture Lodge, Pescadero. \$185. (415) 334-6550.

GLOE (Gay & Lesbian Outreach to Elders) Meetings, potlucks, friendship groups. Call 626-7000.

Gay Youth Awareness Training FOCYS, of Peninsula Family YMCA, offers training for educators on gay youth issues. 349-7969.

HIV+ Support & Education Programs Different groups for gay men, women, public education forums, couples, family & friends support group, and socials. All groups meet 6:30-8pm, Mondays & Tuesdays. 235 W. MacArthur Blvd., Room 530. 596-6337.

Lambda Youth Group Support group for les/bi/gay & questioning youth up to age 23. Confidential. Weekly meetings, Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm. (510) 887-0566.

P-FLAG 7-9pm. Dec. 28, Unitarian Church, 490 Aguajito Rd., Carmel. (408) 655-2629.

St. Mary's Bereavement Groups Eight-week support group for people who've lost loved ones to AIDS. 750-5718.

Self-Defense Classes Free and every Sunday, 3-4pm, Collingwood Park, 18th & Collingwood in the Castro. 985-7423.

SF AIDS Foundation Seeks volunteers for its telephone hotline, specifically English-speaking and bilingual Filipino and Spanish operators. 864-5855, ext. 2000.

SF Network for Battered Lesbians & Bisexual Women Support group starting in January. 281-0276.

Shanti Volunteers Urgently needed to assist PWAs. Call 777-2273.

Spectrum Support groups for queer youth, men, women, seniors and more. Weekly meetings. 457-1115.

Unitarian Universalists Les/bi/gay transgender & straight allies meet the last Sunday of each month at Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, 12-1pm after 10:30am service. (510) 228-0323.

Whiptail Lizard Lounge Alternative dyke space that's smoke and alcohol-free. Open Saturdays & Sundays. 4035 18th St. For events, call 267-6979.

Women's HIV Clinic 12:30-4:30pm every second & fourth Monday. San Mateo County AIDS Program. 573-2385.

Violence Against S/M Women Report of anti-S/M treatment in the lesbian community. For a copy, call (215) 844-5733.

Voices of Pride Sexual minority resource center offers support services to queer and questioning youth 23 and under. (510) 530-8529 or (415) 553-4026.

Women Embracing Life (WEL) Support group for women with HIV. 3543 18th St. 668-3765.

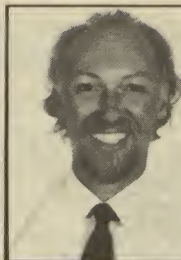
Pepper

(Continued from previous page)

musical message with more resonance, power, and beauty than most full orchestras can. If anyone deserves a celebratory retrospective on the occasion of their 20 anniversary, they certainly do.

Lois Strumpet K Records

Can someone please appoint Lois Maffeo as my own official spokeswoman? Then when I'm rendered speechless (which, I admit, is rare), Lois could just launch into song for me. Better yet, she could simply be at the ready with selections from her new album, *Strumpet*, and I still wouldn't have to say a word. *Strumpet's* full of telltale tunes like "Wet Eyes," "From a Heart," "The Way I Feel Inside" and, especially, "The Trouble With Me," which could be my very own theme song. Lois, who's been described as everything from waiflike to the godmother of the Riot Grrrls, is really neither. What she is, though, is a rapidly rising acoustic singer/songwriter whose latest album has garnered enough attention already to land her a full-page write-up in that arbiter of hipness, *Interview* magazine. Charmingly effervescent, Lois' sweet voice and playful lyrics may initially trick you into not taking her as seriously as you should. Make no mistake about it, however. Despite the little girl quality she sometimes radiates, this is one powerfully talented woman you're dealing with. ▼



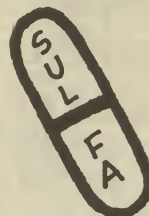
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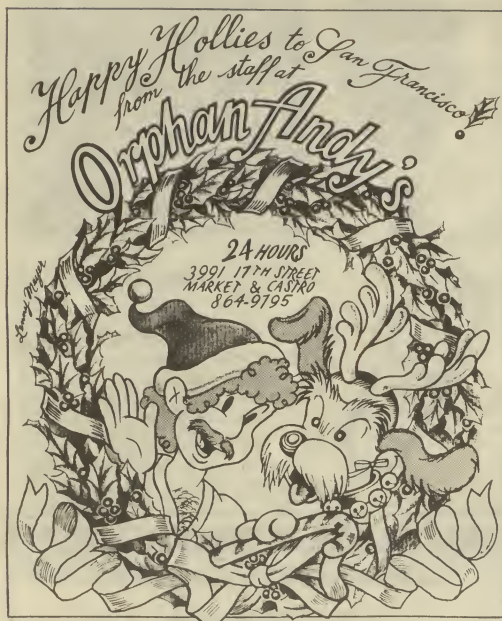


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Profile

Lynn Johnston on Comics, Coming Out, and Her Failure To Be a Lesbian

by Angela Bocage

There are only two daily, nationally-syndicated women cartoonists in North America, and the Bay Area Reporter had a chance to speak with the cool one last week when she was in town signing her work at the Cartoon Art Museum's "Lawrence" exhibit. Lynn Johnston, whose 15-year-old family strip, *For Better or For Worse*, frequently touches upon sex, gender, and growing up, recently featured a gay teen's coming out. The Canadian artist had much to say on the subject.

B.A.R.: Why did you turn down a chance to be in



Cartoonist Lynn Johnston: "I really was impressed by the lack of common sense of these people."

Funny Ladies, the documentary about women cartoonists?

Johnston: Well, it would have meant having a bunch of people coming to my house in North Bay (Canada), and I really didn't want that. We've had reporters come to our house before, and they take a lot of time and it wasn't something I wanted to do. As it turned out, I'm kind of glad I wasn't in *Funny Ladies*, because the filmmaker [Pamela Briggs] ran out of money, and went around asking all the participants to help defray the cost and I'm so glad I didn't have to deal with that.

Still, I appreciate what she did and I think it was a really good film, but those things are just so darned expensive to do.

Several people want me to ask you just how true your characters are to life. Do you have children the ages of Mike, Elizabeth, and April?

They're true-to-life in that they exist everywhere, all these people. They're based mostly on my own family — but not really my family, because you can't go around expecting people to create stories for you; they have to live their own lives.

Have you gotten much negative response to your series of strips dealing with Lawrence coming out?

Oh, you have no ideal I had no idea! At the beginning, my editors said to me, "you're going to get some angry mail!" and I said, "well, I'm expecting it," because there's always somebody that will object to something in any little story you do, but everybody approved it; it went through editors, and my publisher in my own town, which is a very staid little Catholic community, so I didn't expect to get what happened. But, you see, what happened was that a number of the editors were so concerned about the content of the story that without giving people an opportunity to make up their own minds they put out a press release on it, and said, "this is coming up." Then of course every winkle came out of the woodwork.

Winkie?!

All these people who don't think. They follow blindly the directions of someone else. They were, *en masse*, encouraged by religious leaders and group leaders to just write and scream whatever they felt like screaming at me and so we got a barrage of mail, and I'm telling you, it was unreal. It was threatening, it was ugly, it was mean, it was — I mean, I've been doing this for 15 years and people would say "I'm never reading you again. You used to be somebody I loved and I'm never reading you again," and I felt like saying "You haven't read any of this story yet! And if you would drop me like that because of something you imagine, then, where's your common sense, where's your ability to make judgments?" I really was impressed by the lack of common sense of these people...

"I can't imagine locking my children out of my life and my home, but some people do, and maybe the children are better off if the family was that superficial in the first place."

How complimentary was their prior loyalty?

Exactly! One woman wrote in to say "This was the biggest disappointment in my life," and you just want to say, "Well, get a life!" Most people did wait until the story was well under way before they made up their minds, and the last people of all to write to me were people who were gay and lesbian, because they wanted to really make

(Continued on next page)

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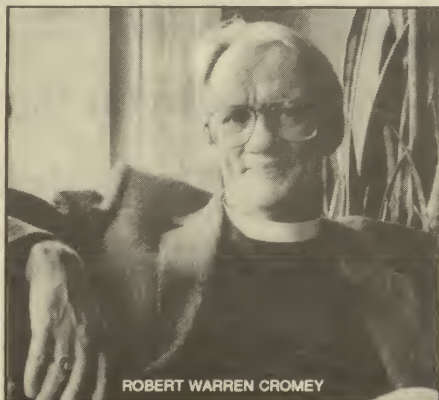
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ROBERT WARREN CROMEY

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Profile

(Continued from previous page)

sure it was a story they approved of before they wrote to me.

The only negative stuff I got from gay or lesbian folks was that I didn't go far enough. "You didn't really tell the whole story," "it was too ideal," "not everyone's parents invite them back," and all that kind of thing. But I only had so much time and space, and I worked with Ralph, my [gay] brother-in-law, and he would give me lines like "It was such a relief!" He went through the whole thing with me, to say, "This is how you would feel, this is how you would react, this is what usually happens" — I mean, I kind of knew, and what I didn't know I could imagine, but you really can't imagine unless you have lived through it. It was great for him to go through all my dialogue and say, "This is how I think I would have said that." It was good to have that kind of help with it.

Would you have anything to say to someone who hadn't come out to their parents?

I don't know, because everybody's family is different. With my parents-in-law ... first of all, Ralph had to really know himself. He had known for a long time, but he had to say "This is how I am, I'm identifying myself this way." In other words, once you feel comfortable enough within yourself then you allow your family to accept you. But he wasn't that comfortable with himself for a long time. I guess he was about 26, and his mother would keep introducing him to girls, in the hope that something would happen, you see, and he would be very cordial and he would take them to lunch, and say you must understand this is only lunch.

Eventually what happened was he was chopping wood in my backyard, and he was chopping it with such a vengeance, that I went out and said "What's wrong?" He said, "I'm sick of my mother introducing me to girls! Because I'm not going to marry a woman! Do you understand? I'm not going to marry a woman." I said I absolutely understand, but you're going to have to tell your mom, you can't just hide this. You're going to have to come out. Otherwise, how are you going to survive?

His mom and dad are so wonderful, they're so accepting and so warm, but even though you know they're warm and accepting, maybe in this one instance, maybe they've made a remark, or maybe a joke or something, you just don't know, and the possibility of losing your family is so horrendous. But his mom accepted it so well, the only thing was she didn't want to tell his dad because he had a bad heart, and it took them two years before they told Tom, and when they told him he said, "I've known since you were 11. It's not a problem for me, I was just waiting for it all to be sorted out, but I've known since you were 11."

So where my story came from, was from a family that was accepting, but the letters I got — there were the most amazing letters, from families that were not accepting, and from young people who wrote to me the most heart-breaking stories to say "my family is my peer group, the

I DON'T GET WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, MAN! WHAT IF YOU, YOU KNOW—FALL IN LOVE?



... BUT IT'S NOT WITH A GIRL.



Lawrence comes out to Mike in Lynn Johnston's *For Better or For Worse*.

people I can relate to. Those are my family." I can't imagine — I have two children, and I can't imagine abandoning either of them, or closing my door to either of them, no matter what — I mean, murder you'd kind of worry about, but even so you'd try to research your past and wonder what role you played in it!

But I can't imagine locking my children out of my life and my home, but some people do, and maybe the children are better off for that if the family was that superficial in the first place.

So many people don't want to live by their own good common sense, they would rather follow the doctrine of someone else and what that doctrine says. I mean, Ron and I were married by a rabbi, though we're not Jewish, and friends of ours, who are Catholic, we wanted to be our witnesses, but their priest would not allow them to because I'm a divorcee. So they weren't even at the service, which was in a home, a private home. It was a lovely service; to this day they feel bad about it, and you think, why would you follow that kind of blindness? It doesn't make sense at all.

But people do these things. In a way you can forgive them, I guess, because they "know not what they do."

You hear it said that people cling to these readymade answers out of fear, that there's so much fear out there —

I've learned so much: about the number of teenage suicides, and just how afraid people are, they're afraid it's catching like the flu, they're afraid that one person could influence another to change their sexuality —

If that were true, all heterosexual parents would have heterosexual children!

Let me tell you, when I was divorced, I was so unhappy, and I had the most wonderful girlfriend in the world, and she was voluptuous and beautiful and I adored her, I adored her shape, her voice, everything about her, I loved her, I did. We were great pals, we did everything together. She had two kids and so did I, and we sat across from each other at my kitchen table and looked at each other and said, "Could we be a couple?" Because we get along so well, our children love each other, the things you hate I hate, the things you love I love." Today, 25 years later, we're still best friends, but we couldn't live together as partners because it just wasn't us.

So, I mean, you can't tell me that one person can make another change, because we wanted to change, we said, "Let's do it!" and we couldn't even get to first base! We didn't even hug, we just said,

"No, uh-uh," and then we were so mad! We said, "Why do we need men anyway, they're all such idiots!" "This isn't fair!" So I know you can't change. For us, we couldn't change, and we were ticked!

How did you become a cartoonist? It's not a field little girls are typically encouraged to pursue.

I always knew I would become an artist, but I didn't know what kind. I suppose it was because I was always a class clown, acting up all the time, and I discovered that if I could draw a drawing that made everyone laugh, it actually got me off the hook because then I didn't get into trouble, so I took all the acting and silliness that I had in me and put it on paper, and I've been doing that since I was a little kid.

I remember my dad introducing me to cartoonists when I was little. I was lucky that both my parents were artistic. If I wasn't doing this for a liv-

ing it would be my number one hobby. My dad used to kiss me goodnight and say "See you in the funny papers," and he really meant it.

At the university where I worked as a medical illustrator, I did a lot of comics — one obstetrician talked me into doing cartoons for his ceilings above his examining tables, because I had complained, "You leave me here for hours and there's nothing to look at." So, by the time the baby was born, I had dozens of cartoons, and in the meantime my husband had run off with a voluptuous script assistant — I never did get a chance to thank her! — and the doctor called me and said, I think you have a book. He helped me find a publisher, and then I did more books...

Was that David, We're Pregnant?

Yep, and it's still selling ... and my son is 20 now. ▼



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Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25

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Diverse People, Inquiring Minds, Open Hearts

National Community News

Summit

(Continued from page 1)

broadcast in the history of lesbian and gay political meetings.

Who's who?

Getting C-SPAN to participate was, like many other GLA accomplishments, the work of outspoken gay activist Michael Petrelis. "It was actually amazingly simple," he told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "We asked them. It turns out, when we asked why they hadn't ever covered a meeting of a national gay organization before, they said they'd never been asked before. That's typical."

It is due to that kind of open criticism of the existing gay organizations that has made Petrelis probably the most despised gay activist in history by those groups' leaders, a fact that doesn't bother him a bit — in fact, it prompts him. For example, on his own and without financial support (or, for that matter, any other kind of support) from any organization, Petrelis flew to Japan twice and led the fight for justice in the murder of Allen Schindler. He was also the organizer of the two largest ACT UP demonstrations ever held in Washington, D.C. Now he has led the fight to establish GLA.

"It's long overdue. We need a national organization that will reflect the needs of the gay and lesbian community," said Petrelis, who will be grassroots coordinator for the group. "That's why we're having C-SPAN broadcast it nationwide, so everyone in the country can participate — and at the very least will know

what's going on."

Petrelis spoke of his past frustration in dealing with more institutionalized D.C. gay and lesbian organizations. "I live in Washington, D.C., and I'm an activist and even I have a hard time finding out what's going on — that's plain wrong. Hell, this organization [GLA] will be good, if for no other reason than it'll answer its calls, for God's sake!"

Terry Schleder, of Boycott Colorado, and founder of Come Out/Colorado, is regional organizer for Gay and Lesbian Americans. She recently testified against Amendment 2 in the successful District Court lawsuit to have the anti-gay ballot measure declared unconstitutional.

Jerry Hagerty of Kansas City is also a regional coordinator. A member of that city's pride committee, Hagerty successfully lobbied for a city council resolution for anti-discrimination protection for gays.

Intelligent, impassioned

In an interview with the *B.A.R.*, former journalist-turned-activist Ann Northrop said she is a regional organizer for Gay and Lesbian Americans and will be a facilitator for the summit. Northrop had a successful career with CBS News when, she says, at 39 and in light of lesbian and gay struggles, "I developed a profound sense of the intellectual bankruptcy in journalism." Northrop worked for CBS News, *CBS This Morning*, *Good Morning America*, *ABC Sports*, and the *National Journal*. A post-debutante from a long line of upper-class Boston Brahmins, Northrop has come a long way, baby.

Although her activist flame was kindled at college Vietnam War protests, and was nurtured when she moved on to the feminist movement, it wasn't until Northrop left journalism and joined the Hettrick-Martin Center for Lesbian and Gay Youth as an AIDS educator that the flame became a bonfire. Television coverage of this intelligent, impassioned woman being arrested time after time after time, has so deeply resonated in the lesbian community she has become an icon.

Northrop says she feels this new organizations is necessary to the struggle for gay and lesbian civil rights, and dismisses criticisms of some of the people involved. "The only person I've got to check in with on a regular basis is me. I'm my own biggest critic," she said. "Everybody has a past or has a personal agenda, but that has nothing to do with this organization. We all

have to look into ourselves to see what we're willing to do to participate in the struggle."

Northrop deeply believes that organizers of Gay and Lesbian Americans are asking for the national community to formulate what it wants — that only the bare bones of the organization are in place. "We want people to come with their ideas and proposals on how they want the organization to be structured. We want them to be a part of it, to participate actively in the struggle for civil rights." Northrop was passionate about the need, "for us to talk about civil rights for everybody — that means for gay Republicans too: no exclusions — we need to include everybody."

Northrop said she thinks the organizers are doing it the right way. "We have credible people, we've lined up C-SPAN coverage so that we can have a large, national town meeting, at least by proxy. We have to do national strategizing and we want this debate opened up — that's why this meeting is for everybody. We want to include people and to invite them in."

Sign-up deadline

The summit will be held on the Martin Luther King holiday weekend, on January 15, 16, and 17, 1994 at Georgetown University. There is no fee, just a suggested donation of \$35, but no one will be turned away for lack of money. Those wishing to attend the summit should contact Gay and Lesbian Americans by December 31 at P.O. Box 77533, Washington, D.C. 20013-7533. A small number of community housing slots will be available for those who register by that date.

A press conference is scheduled for Monday, January 17, 1994 at noon to officially announce the formation of the organization, summarize the agenda, and discuss the outcome of the weekend's summit activities.

Northrop is anxious to meet people who will attend the summit. "I'm a perfect example that it's never too late to start getting involved," she laughed, adding, "People don't have to go out and get arrested; we need involvement on all levels, from letter writing to computer work. People don't need to leave their homes to be involved."

She laughed again, saying, "Tell everybody to get involved and then maybe I can realize my real dream — and become a famous field hockey coach."

Gay and Lesbian Americans can be reached by message phone at (202) 232-1773. ▼



Dyke delight

TV actress Amanda Bearse (second from right) is seen here with friends at the LA Gay and Lesbian Community Service Center's National Coming Out Day press conference. She's the center's newest board member. (Photo: Bill Doggett)

From the Garbage CAN

by Al Kielwasser

The media-savvy Christian Action Network (CAN) has launched a nationwide attack on the United Way. According to a CAN statement: "One of the most powerful organizations in America — the United Way — is now putting homosexual textbooks into the hands of little children. United Way is giving money to a homosexual group called Project 21 to distribute homosexual books into the schools."

Project 21 is a national alliance for curriculum advocacy, coordinated by the San Francisco Bay Area chapter of GLAAD. Project 21 works to ensure that fair, accurate and unbiased information about lesbian, gay and bisexual people is included in public school textbooks. Though the United Way has provided modest support to GLAAD in the past, it has never directly funded any Project 21 effort.

In his campaign against Project 21, Martin Mawyer, CAN president, is whipping up the usual hysteria. "I think many parents are going to be shocked when their child asks for help on their homosexual homework assignments," Mawyer says. "We tell our children that homosexual sex is a sin, a perversion, even a deadly act. Homosexuals don't have children of their own, so they're going after our kids."

CAN recently mailed out a six-page letter on the subject of Project 21 and "homosexual textbooks." The mailing included Project 21 news items clipped from papers across the country. Also included was a "fact sheet" (quite the oxymoron) on "Project 21 and their attacks toward our children in our own public school system." Mawyer says he intends "to issue press releases and distribute these fact sheets at once. I also want to rally public opinion leaders behind us and our children."

CAN is hoping to gather a million signatures on a petition to the United Way. In part, the petition screams: "As long as the United Way continues to promote homosexuality in our public schools, I will not donate a single penny to your efforts. Doesn't your organization have better things to do than fund this filth in our public schools?"

Reportedly, homophobic letters and calls are already rolling into United Way headquarters in Virginia. Karen Davie, Senior Vice President for Communications and Public Affairs, has sent an urgent memo to United Way directors across the country. In that memo, Davie points out that school boards — rather than the United Way — determine what textbooks children may read. She states that the United Way's "General Counsel Charles Kolb is attempting to speak directly with the Christian Action Network to urge that they cease disseminating inaccurate information." She also advises United Way staff who receive calls on this issue to respond: "Our United Way does not allocate any funds to organizations that disseminate to children information about homosexuality."

Of course, fair and accurate information about homosexuality is just what children need if we are ever going to stem the tide of hate violence that swells each year. CAN is promoting nothing more than a curriculum of fear and bigotry for our nation's youth. CAN members intend to deprive children of the most basic goals of education — truth and enlightenment — in favor of textbooks that promote ignorance and lies. Urge the United Way of America to denounce both the substance and the intent of the CAN petition drive; ask your local United Way to more vigorously support educational equity

We must confront homophobia in order to cure it! To notify the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation of any defamatory media coverage, or to request GLAAD membership information, write to GLAAD/SFBA, 514 Castro Street, Suite B, San Francisco, CA 94114. Call our main office at 415-861-4588; fax, 415-861-4893; South Bay, 408-235-0229; East Bay, 510-273-9146; North Bay, 415-647-3055. ▼

efforts across the nation.

Write or call Elaine Chao, President, United Way, National Headquarters, 701 North Fairfax, Alexandria, VA 22314-2045, tel. 703-836-7100. Send copies of your correspondence to Tom Ruppner, President, United Way of the Bay Area, 50 California St., Suite 200, S.F., CA 94111, tel. 415-772-4300, fax 415-291-8392; Edward J. Rivera, President, United Way of Santa Clara, P.O. Box 2, Santa Clara, CA 95052, tel. 408-247-1200.

Esquire excellence

In "The Accidental Martyr," a sweeping 16-page essay in the December issue of *Esquire* magazine, Chip Brown tells the saga of Allen Schindler, the gay sailor who was brutally murdered by a homophobic shipmate. Brown's rendering of the Schindler story is one of the most complete and powerful efforts to have appeared in the mainstream press, and he manages to capture both the personal and the political sides of the story. Anyone who reads this essay should come away from the experience with a deepened sense of sorrow and a renewed commitment to fighting this nation's institutionalized homophobia — a disease that is, indeed, deadly.

Brown spares none of the gory details that were "politely" ignored in many news reports of the murder. Schindler's body becomes an expert witness to the savagery of gay bashing: "The patient ... had suffered at least four fatal injuries to the head, chest, and abdomen. He had eight broken ribs, fractures in the back of his skull and in the bones around his eyes; his nose was broken; his upper jaw was broken; the whole middle portion of his face was detached and floating loosely. There were bruises on his brain, on his lungs, his heart. His liver had been turned to pulp. His bladder had been ripped open. There were sneaker-tread marks stamped into his forehead and chest."

Brown divides his essay into eleven smaller sections, in which he examines various facets of the story, from the maddening ineptitude and hypocrisy of Naval authorities to the emergence of Schindler's mother, Dorothy Hajdys, as a spokesperson in the fight against bigotry. He looks into the background of Terry Helvey (Schindler's murderer) as well as the climate of homophobia that festered on the *Belleau Wood* (Schindler's ship) and was promoted throughout the Navy by military policies that "nourished rather than confronted the hatred in sailors like Helvey." Brown also details the news media's initial disinterest in the Schindler story, which was overcome through the tireless efforts of front-line activists like Michael Petrelis.

Send comments to Terry McDonnell, Editor-in-Chief, *Esquire*, 50 West 55th St., New York, NY 10019, tel. 212-649-4020, fax 212-265-0938.

Domino's effect

Now, eating Domino's Pizza can give you homophobia as well as indigestion. Tom Monaghan, the company's cheesy CEO, gave the annual Domino's Pizza Humanitarian Award to James Dobson, president of "Focus on the Family" (FOF). This virulently homophobic hate group — which occupies a \$27 million, 47-acre complex in Colorado Springs and boasts an annual budget of \$80 million — lent its full support to Amendment 2. What's next? Will Domino's Pizza make Jerry Falwell the recipient of the Peppercorn Medal of Honor? Call your local Domino's outlet and let them know why you will be ordering pizza from someone else. Or could just send a few dozen pizzas to Lou Sheldon — extra anchovies. ▼

Christmas

(Continued from page 1)

For behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy...

It's harder to be openly Christian in the Castro than it is to be openly gay in the Financial District. Who can blame us for anti-Christmas feelings when the likes of Lou Sheldon and Donald Wildmon are preaching hate in Christ's name? In times like these, why should gays and lesbians even pretend to find joy and hope in the Nativity?

Which shall be to all people ...

Christians look to this week's blessed event as the beginning of the promise in which we base our faith: the mystic mystery of the Resurrection, where death is crushed underfoot. As gay Christians, we reclaim in this season the joy that has been stolen from us, the joy promised to all people. We renew the promise for ourselves. In the face of all who would say to us, "No room at the inn," we restore our hope and make our stand, in the fullness and freedom of Christ.

For gay and lesbian Christians especially, the promise of eternal life is an anchor that helps us endure the daily deaths of our friends and loved ones. Christ's birth is the beginning of a happy ending to this tragic story, the

promise of victory over the spirit of death and despair that surround us in the age of AIDS. The babe in the manger will grow up to say, "I go to prepare a place for you." We live with resolute and determined hope that we will some day be together again in that eternal place Christ has prepared, where death and hate have no power over us. And the Nativity promises us not just pie in the sky when you die, but a means to endure in the present, to live in this temporal world with daily, practical faith, to restore our hope and our faith when all seems lost and worthless, when love fails, when our hearts are not strong.

And this is not just for Christians. No matter where we stand, no matter what we believe, the promise of Christmas is for all of us. As we celebrate having survived another year, as we remember our absent friends, as we try like hell to be thankful for what blessing we've got, we can all claim Christmas as a promise of reconciliation, with one another, with the world at large, with our own troubled hearts. This season holds for all people the opportunity for a renewal of spirit — if we want it. In a time when hope is daily drained, there's plenty of joy, real joy, to go around. No reason to believe? Believe anyway. Believe in the face of death, believe when there is

no hope, believe irrationally, believe madly, believe it for yourself. And that relentless belief in life over death, the simple tale of the triumph of love over hate, will stand as rebuke to the Wildmons and Sheldons of this world, will bring us together in the lesbian and gay community with renewed power, with quickened hearts, with new hope and fresh joy.

For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke, chapter two. Same old story. Christmas 1993 and I'm back at St. Mark's, back in church, queer as hell and singing the carols again, still troubled, still trembling, but free, freed by the promise of the little reject in the manger with the animals — and remembering what our pastor, the Reverend Richard Schaper, likes to say: "The final word about our lives does not belong to the tumors in our bodies or the virus in our blood. The final word belongs to God!"

Fear not! Believe with us for one night — or one moment — that death will not triumph over us. Claim the promise, for yourself, for all of us. No matter where your heart is, seize joy with us this Christmas and let it bless you and keep you through the New Year. ▼



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or
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with Cabernet Peppercorn Sauce

Dessert
Poached Pears or Chestnut Mousse

Coffee or Tea

Happy Holidays!

from the staff and writers of
The Bay Area Reporter

Holiday Shopping

**Katie's Kastro Kristmas Krunch:
Last Minute Shopping Suggestions**

by Kate Bornstein with
photos by Rick Gerharter

You say you've got just one more present to buy? Or four? Or twelve? Say no more — here's the Bay Area Reporter's shopping guide. So hang on to your bank card and join ace photographer Rick Gerharter and me on a whirlwind prowling of the Castro/Upper Market in search of the ever elusive perfect Christmas gift!

We found great gift ideas, ranging from high-end gifts like the 61-inch television set at Eber Electronics (\$4999), and a trip to Palm Springs for two (\$700 at Travel Trends); to a five dollar gift certificate for two cups of what has got to be the best ever cup of hot French chocolate at Rococoa's Fairie Queen Chocolates.

Eat your heart out

If food seems to be the right idea for gifts this year, try Java Road. Coffee clerk Sandrine suggests a Royal Kona blend; and there are some great coffee grinders are priced from \$20 to \$200. For the coffee-lover in your life, there's also a pendant with a steaming coffee cup at Rolo on Market, \$15. Mention this article to Roland, and get the pendant at a special B.A.R.-reader ten percent discount! (Hey, who said we never did anything for you!)

Tantalizing food gifts are also available at Buffalo

Food, or Harvest Market. At Harvest, you can buy a basket and make your own gift package. Suggested fillings include designer pastas, cocoas, risotto to mixes, organic wines, and Italian holiday cakes. Major yum!

If it's a whole meal you've got in mind, try Pozole on Market. You know the place — the one with the Muscle Beach waiters? If you ask Eduardo nicely, he'll make up a gift certificate for a meal of Mexican food with a Latin influence. Then again, maybe you'd rather eat at home. One anonymous shopper I spoke with had finished his Christmas shopping with a gift of cookware for his lover.

"How did you decide on cookware?" I inquired.

"It's expensive and it got my shopping over with quickly."

"Is he going to cook you wonderful things?"

"He'd better!"

Dana, another shopper, bought some cookbooks for her lover. "They can get their appetites aroused and then go make something wonderful!" Where to buy a cookbook? Dana suggests Aardvark (on Church near Market).

But for Rick and me, the top pick for food gifts definitely goes to Rococoa's Fairie Queen Chocolates, near the Castro Theater. Owner Jeffrey Douglas explains, "There are very few thinks in the world that you can get the best of the type for so little money. The best jewelry, or wine, or fabric will all cost so much; but you can buy the very best chocolate, and spend what you want to spend, from \$5 to \$50." I had the marzipan with fresh whipped cream and dark chocolate — it was... well gosh, it was nothing short of a sexual experience. (Shopping tip: the cute faeries flying all over the store are regularly \$45, but they are only \$25 through Christmas. The live faeries behind the counter are slightly more expensive, and prices need to be negotiated.)

Gay apparel

Great t-shirts are everywhere! Tom, a volunteer with ACT UP Golden Gate, is selling T-shirts at 18th and Market. My fave: *I Wanna Be A Barbie ... The Bitch Has Everything!* \$12, with all proceeds to ACT UP Golden Gate. Tee's at In*Jean*ious include: *Caution, I Can Go From Zero To Bitch In 2.4 Seconds*, and *I Came Upon A Midnight Queer*. A Different Light stocks a full range of Hothead Paisan t-shirts; and I bought a great one at Headlines for Women: *Love Transcends Gender*. I'm thinking of sending that to my mother in New Jersey.

Sleepwear? Try Citizen. I really liked the flannel boxer shorts with teacups and breakfast item prints for \$17. Nightshirts start at \$48, with flannel robes at \$68. Great flannel pajamas in a mattress ticking pattern with coffee cups, too. Rick was partial to pillow cases that say "NO!" (I did not ask Rick about how he planned to use that.)

Mr. Wonderful Men's Clothing on 18th near Hartford has vests in dozens of patterns, all for around \$40.

Thomas recommends a gift certificate and letting them come in and pick out the pattern of their choice. And speaking of vests, there's a fab-u-lous black sequined vest with multi-colored stars at G.W. Finley's. It retails for \$90; but if you come in and mention this article to Buddy, you can have the vest for 25 percent off! (I asked if there was anything else unique in the store for B.A.R. readers — Buddy smiled and pointed to himself.)

The award for Most Unusual Clothing Related Gift goes to Jessica Clark at Off Castro Cleaners. She came up with the suggestion of a \$15 gift certificate, which would cover dry-cleaning a dress, a couple of blouses, and maybe laundering a couple of shirts! Tip o' the hat to my friend, Jessica!

Oh, go and stuff it!

Looking for smaller gifts or stocking stuffers? Steve and Mundo were in The Skin Zone, buying the fixings for little baskets for their friends: soaps, bath oil beads, lotions, and bubble baths. Mundo said these items were perfect for their female friends. Steve glowered at him, and muttered something about sexism. We left the loving couple in search of more tchotchke. Cliff's Hardware proved a veritable treasure trove of toys: dinosaurs, Russian nesting dolls, and posable figurines from *The Nightmare*

Cleanliness
gift baskets

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NEWARK, Holy Redeemer, (510)793-1911, 35660 Cedar Blvd. at Lake. Christmas Eve: Family Service 5:00 pm; Candlelight Communion 11:00 pm. No Christmas Day service.

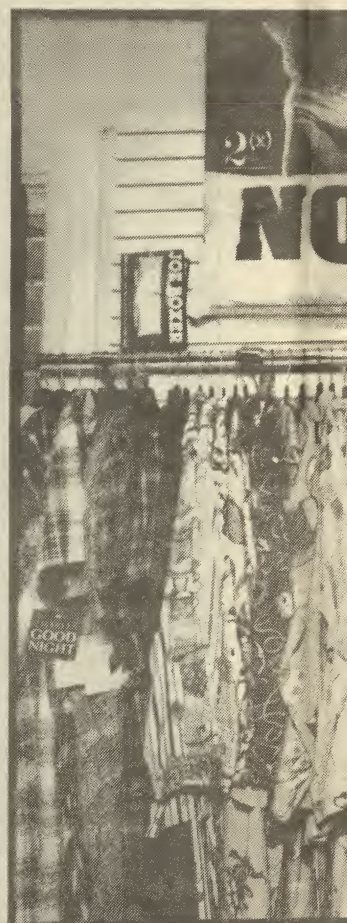
OAKLAND, St. Paul, (510)530-6333, 1658 Excelsior Ave, south of Park Blvd. Christmas Eve: Candlelight Communion 10:30 pm. No Christmas Day.

SAN FRANCISCO, St. Francis, (415)621-2635, 152 Church Street at Market. Christmas Eve: Choral Preludes 10:30 pm, Candlelight Communion with Carols 11:00 pm. Christmas Day: Festival Eucharist 11:00 am.

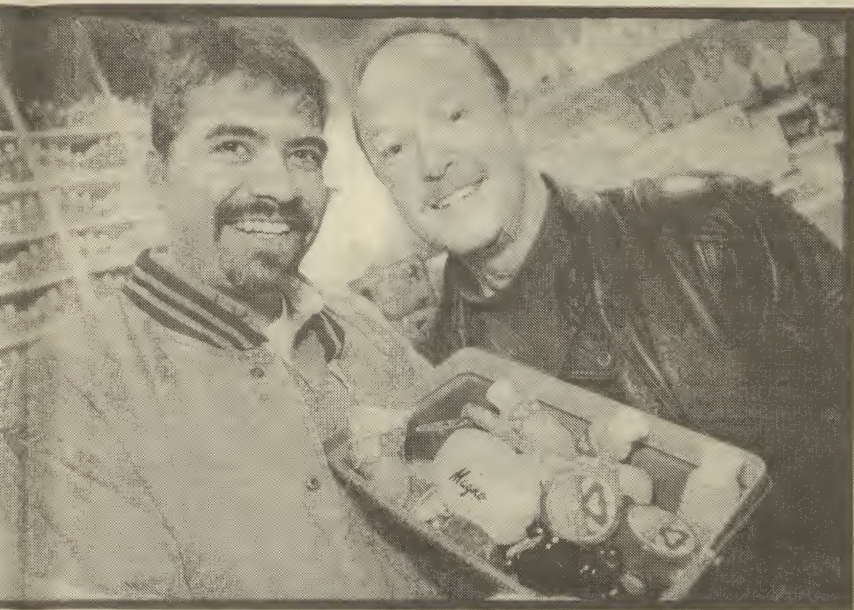
SAN FRANCISCO, St. Mark's, (415)928-7770, 1111 O'Farrell at Gough. Christmas Eve: Children's Pageant with Communion 5:00 pm, Christmas Preludes with recorders 10:30 pm, Choral Eucharist with carols 11:00 pm. Christmas Day: Festival Eucharist 11:00 am.

SAN JOSE, Christ the Good Shepherd, (408)266-8022, 1550 Meridian, south of 280. Christmas Eve: Candlelight Communion 5:00 pm, 11:00 pm, Children's Service with Communion 7:00 pm. No Christmas Day Service.

TIBURON, Shepherd of the Hills, (415)435-1528, 9 Shepherd Way off Trestle Glen. Christmas Eve: Candlelight Communion 11:00 pm. Christmas Day: Festival Eucharist 10:00 am.



Stuff your stockings in these flannel pajamas



anliness is next to godliness: Edmundo Duran and Steve Barry show their Skin Zone selections to make up baskets. (Photo: Rick Gerharter)

Before Christmas.

How about gift certificates? Donald Montwill pointed out that \$20 or \$24 will buy an evening for two at most shows at Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint.

Headlines, though, has got to be the ultimate store for someone who has everything. For stocking stuffers, try their selection of kitchen magnets featuring cowboys, cats, genitalia, breasts, Phil Donahue, and the Mona Lisa. Magnets range from \$2 to \$8, depending on the size. Hey! We're in the Castro, and darnit, size is important!

Robin Silverman, a volun-

teer for the Godfather Service Fund, on the corner of 18th and Market, is selling bears

for \$5 and \$10; with the mink bear for \$20. All proceeds go (Continued on page 28)



el pajamas from Citizen on Castro Street. (Photo: Rick Gerharter)



Lesbian, Gay and
Bisexual Catholics
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and Families

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As Christians, we believe in extending the inclusive love of God in Jesus Christ to all people. Therefore, while loving our brothers and sisters who are extremist members of the Christian churches, we must object to their actions.

The "Christian Right" selectively uses Jewish and Christian Scriptures to bolster a campaign of fear and intimidation.

The "Christian Right" kidnaps the language of our religious traditions and uses it to voice a narrow agenda centered on sexuality, holding hostage the full, liberating message of Jesus and the prophets.

The "Christian Right" uses ethical language to condemn what they do not like, ignoring the commandment of Jesus not to judge.

The "Christian Right" uses theological language to promote their own political ambitions.

We, Episcopal clergy of this Diocese, must condemn these tactics. They are incompatible with the teaching of Jesus Christ, who condemned religious self-righteousness and hypocrisy.

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For more information about this and other studies contact Mark Bowers at (415) 353-6215. HIVCare is a program of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital, 900 Hyde Street, San Francisco.

National News

Post Amendment 2 Reactions: Friends and Foes Find Comfort

by Kathy Deitsch

When District Judge H. Jeffrey Bayless ruled Colorado's Amendment 2 unconstitutional December 14, he gave enough to both sides for everyone to feel somewhat vindicated. Lesbians and gays seem soothed by the decision, while those on the other side point to Bayless's declaration to rule on a "suspect class" status for lesbians and gays, a key point of the plaintiffs, as validation.

Colorado's anti-gay "Christian soldiers" said the "unconstitutional" tag came as no surprise: Colorado For Family Values spokesperson Will Perkins said the astonishment for them was "this is the first time [anti-gay discrimination was found to be illegal] with all of the resources that homosexuals had at their fingertips." Proponents like Perkins are steadfast in their belief that Amendment 2 is constitutional and the U.S. Supreme Court will agree with their position on appeal.

Tony Marco, the architect of Amendment 2, claims the Bayless decision is "deeply flawed, internally contradictory, and will not stand highest-court scrutiny." The America for Family Values leader seems recommitted to a battle that has seen him silent for some months. Marco contends that "objective criteria" must be the basis for sound



Martina Navratilova

public policy in the civil rights arena.

"Murderous intent"

"Giving initiative campaign losers a sort of 'permanent veto power' over election results they don't like," Marco says, represents "an assault with murderous intent" on a citizen's right to petition through the initiative process, which he claims to be "a fundamental right" of the people of Colorado. He believes the decision should be struck down for that reason alone.

On the other side, Mary Celeste stubbornly defends the Judge's decision, saying it establishes that anti-gay measures can't "infringe on the fundamental rights of people." Celeste, a founder of Colorado Legal Initiative Project, one of the organizations that initiated the legal challenge, said Bayless's decision was "another cog in the wheel of civil rights, and its impact will be felt throughout the country."

Even so, the plaintiffs didn't get everything they wanted, either. Lead counsel Jean Dubofsky played down this part of the ruling, claiming she was not surprised that Bayless chose not to address the plaintiffs' desire for "suspect class status." In other words, lesbians and gays can't be listed alongside others in the categories of race, gender, and nationality. Dubofsky said, "The court found that since no other court in the country had found gays and lesbians to be a 'suspect class,' this court wasn't going to find that and it was not persuaded by our evidence of political powerlessness." Much of the evidence presented by plaintiffs at the trial was directed to this point.

In 1991, CFV justified its intent to seek passage of Amendment 2 by claiming gay activists were storming the state with funds and a "militant agenda." In his decision, Judge Bayless said the court saw little evidence that "militant gay aggression endangers the state's political functions." Bayless also said, "If one wished to promote family values, action would be taken that is pro-family — rather than anti-some other group."

At a press conference sponsored by the American Civil Liberties Union, ACLU director Jim Joy lauded the Bayless decision and said, "We believe this is a great victory for equality and the constitution here in Col-

orado." Still, while acknowledging his satisfaction with the decision, he warned "the fight is far from over." Joy addressed Marco's argument about the "fundamental right" of a majority to discriminate, and said that just because over 50 percent of Colorado voters approved Amendment 2, that doesn't "make it right, or constitutional."

Straight validation

Martina Navratilova, a Coloradoan and former plaintiff, said in a statement, "gay people knew it was unconstitutional all along. It's nice to have official validation from at least some straight people too. Just because a majority of voters felt it was alright to discriminate does not make it right. Now, we have seen the system can work and the amendment is unconstitutional, let's just hope this ruling discourages these kinds of amendments in other states."

Both Attorney General Gale Norton and Governor Roy Romer immediately announced they would appeal Bayless's decision to the Colorado Supreme Court. Romer, a Democrat who has at various times seemed to be in favor of Amendment 2, and against it, justified his decision to appeal by saying Coloradoans need a "final ruling on this thing, no matter what side you're on," and because "I'm under oath to follow the law" and the voters will want the "full benefit of judicial review."

Many believe the only unanswered question is whether or not the U.S. Supreme Court would review the case. Both Norton and Romer acknowledged a decision about an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court is on hold. [See "Hey, Norton," an interview with the Attorney General, next page.]

"Future pain and struggle"

Lesbian and gay leaders huddled inside the state capitol to applaud the Judge's decision. Kat Morgan of the gay and lesbian community center of Colorado said, "It was unfortunate the state of Colorado announced their intention so quickly today to appeal this ruling," claiming it indicates that Coloradoans are still "unwilling to acknowledge the hatred and intolerance embodied by Amendment 2." Morgan said the appeal will result in "future pain and struggle for the state's lesbians and gays."

The rush to appeal seems especially odd in light of the latest *Denver Post/News 4* poll on the subject: of 601 Coloradoans interviewed, 71 percent said they believe "it should be against the law for an employer to fire an employee just because he or she is homosexual." And 56 percent agreed "there should be a law that prohibits a landlord from refusing to rent to someone because he or she is a homosexual." The poll concluded that the gay rights movement is perceived to be about making "homosexuality acceptable," as opposed "to fighting for equality in the workplace and tenant rights." ▼

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Hey, Norton: Colorado's Attorney General Speaks About Amendment 2

by Kathy Deitsch
and Ray O'Loughlin

Shortly after Judge Jeffrey Bayless issued his ruling that Colorado's anti-gay Amendment 2 is unconstitutional, the state's Attorney General Gail Norton had announced that she would appeal the case to the state Supreme Court. On Tuesday, December 14, Norton and Tim Tymkovich, who headed the state's defense of the amendment, spoke with reporter Kathy Deitsch and former B.A.R. editor Ray O'Loughlin for two hours about what the next steps were, why the state posed certain arguments in its defense, and what the case was costing the state. All reporters' questions appear in *italics*; Norton's responses follow. Tymkovich's responses are identified.

What is your sense of what reaction or response you might get from the Colorado Supreme Court?

What is in front of them now is fitting into the framework they already established. We dispute whether the framework is correct, but they established the standard and we need to demonstrate a compelling state interest. The new question in front of them is whether a compelling state interest has been demonstrated.

Will Perkins [head of Coloradans for Family Values, who spearheaded Amendment 2] said this afternoon that he sees this ruling as a victory because the judge denied protected class status to gays and lesbians. Do you see it as that?

That was a ruling in favor of the state. We see it first of all as a decision that will allow the important issues to be resolved on appeal. We've said all along that's where the issues appropriately ought to be resolved. There was nothing in the Bayless ruling that sidetracked the issues. No technical surprises that you sometimes get that means you spend the next two years fighting to sort out some technical issues instead of getting to the real issues.

What do you see as the real issues as emerging?

I think the real issue is whether the state has established a compelling state interest. Bayless rejected most of our arguments outright. Two of the issues he found could constitute compelling state interest. On the question of religious freedom and the question of family and promotion of family privacy. As to both of those he said Amendment 2 was not narrowly tailored enough to be compelling state interests to justify the amendment.

What timeline do you see with the Colorado Supreme Court?

It's hard to say. It's going to be months. We will be asking that the case be handled as quickly as possible. I wouldn't anticipate this

would be any faster than the last appeal, which took five months. We will ask that it be expedited. We think this is an important case that ought to be resolved as quickly as possible.

Governor Roy Romer indicated earlier today his wish to get a decision from the Colorado Supreme Court before a decision is made about whether or not the case should be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. Are those your sentiments as well?

**"The law on the books in Boulder had no religious exemption in place, so Amendment 2 could have as one of its justifications that of protecting religious freedom."
—Attorney General Gail Norton**

That's right. The likelihood is that we would take it on to the U.S. Supreme Court and ask them to review it. There are potentially things that can happen that would not make it appropriate for U.S. Supreme Court review. In this case, it is unlikely that the state court will find state constitutional grounds, all of the state constitutional issues have been dropped. If they decided a procedural error had been made by Bayless they could return it to him. That is not likely. That's an example of how the case could get sidetracked.

The likelihood is that unless Congress acts to amend the federal civil rights act, at some point they will take a case that raises these issues. This case clearly presents those issues.

What this case does not have is a history of other court rulings on the issue involved. Because there is not that conflict in the way other courts have handled it, they may not take it. But there are cases coming up on related issues around the country. And at the point this case is decided by the Colorado court there may be some conflicting cases, so they may decide this case meets that criteria.

Does the cost of pursuing this at the Supreme Court level play into your decision to appeal it?

Oh, yes. But we've already thoroughly briefed the case, we've done the legal research that's involved, and the preparation of one more brief is not usually that much of an expense. If you hire an outside U.S. Supreme Court expert to handle the case, it can be high priced. But the cost of preparing the petition and asking the U.S. Supreme Court to review it is not usually that much of an expense. But it's always a factor we have a responsibility to look at.

Will you have figures for us about the cost of this case shortly?

TIM TYMKOVICH: On pending litigation, we're reluctant to talk about state expenditures. That's a factor that is somewhat confidential because it gives clues about legal strategy and weaknesses in a case. But at some point the cost of the case is appropriate for the public to know. It's been a very expensive case as it is complex and difficult litigation.

What is your reaction to Judge Bayless's rejection of your argument that Amendment 2 preserves the ability of the state to remedy discrimination against suspect classes?

(Continued on next page)



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Norton

(Continued from previous page)

We viewed it in two parts: first, the dilution of financial resources as we've got more issues to cover, and second, the dilution under civil rights law. To expand the number of characteristics especially protected, it becomes less of a protection for those characteristics already there.

He also said in his decision that the religious right to discriminate and the right of gay political participation can coexist.

You can have a religious exemption that is directed toward religious beliefs and allows people to come forward and say 'I have a religious objection to this law.' You could

resolve it as Denver and Aspen did, by having the provision in the ordinance.

Does that knock out the religious freedom argument?

The argument that we made was looking at the law on the books in Boulder as a motivating factor for Amendment 2. There was no religious exemption in place. So, Amendment 2 could have as one of its justifications that of protecting religious freedom.

TYMKOVICH: The point he was making is that there were ways that Amendment 2 could have been drafted that would have better created a balance.

One other point, which is very offensive to the gay community, is the argument about the well-being of children. How does

Amendment 2 further the physical and psychological well-being of children?

The argument that we made is that the people of Colorado can make that choice. And the choice that was made with Amendment 2 was not to have the government mandating what private actions ought to be taken to prevent discrimination. These are essentially choices in philosophy.

It gets to a whole lot of issues about how you view sexual orientation and what is the source of sexual orientation. Those who view sexual orientation as a choice that can be influenced in a child's life want to create a social structure that pushes in the direction of more traditional social structure. The differing philosophy is that sexual orientation is determined either very early in life or genetically.

Given those two very divergent views, we said the people of Colorado had the ability to make the choice to follow the more traditional path instead of the alternative path.

TYMKOVICH: Our position at trial was that Amendment 2 is more of a withdrawal of government from an area of regulation. The argument was that the state has already made choices about sexuality, for example, the marriage statute requires a heterosexual marriage. There are a lot of social issues that touch on families and children and associations that are at stake depending on where the state chooses to go on gay rights laws.

Amendment 2 was in part an effort by Coloradans for

Family Values to prevent the expansion of laws in some of these areas. Their rationale was that we were not ready to change the marriage laws in a way that we don't think is the way the policy ought to go.

The argument we made at trial was that that was a policy choice voters were entitled to make. We certainly weren't in a position to say that that policy choice was the only choice or even the right choice, only that it was a legitimate choice for the voters to have made.

A large part of what this case was all about is individual rights versus the democratic process.

As a public official, there is always a lot of speculation and interest as to what your own personal feelings are.

While the litigation is going on, there is a real tendency to view what I say personally to be what I think legally.

Are you still serving on the Heritage Foundation's advisory council [a conservative think tank]?

I am not on the advisory board but on a regulatory monitoring board, whose role is essentially to look at the federal government's regulatory mandates.

Are you still on that board?

Yes, I am. I've been affiliated with the Heritage Foundation for a long time. I've read many of their publications and contributed to some. There is definitely a civil rights philosophy there but it is a question of government versus individuals, what choices should be made by government and what choices by individuals. I separate that as a government issue from individual moral choices.

People who think government should not be involved in something can have very different views about what individuals ought to do and how they ought to live. I think Heritage talks more about the philosophy of government than about where individuals ought to come down on moral issues.

Recent polls show that you have a higher rating as a Republican candidate for governor than anyone else.

Have you made any decision about the gubernatorial race?

I've not entirely ruled out the option of running for governor. But I enjoy what I'm doing now, despite the difficulties of the cases we face. This is a position I enjoy.

Speaking as the Attorney General of Colorado, do you have anything to say to gay and lesbian citizens?

One point I'd make, and I've said this before, is that we've provided an aggressive defense of Amendment 2 and we would have provided an equally aggressive defense had it been a gay civil rights amendment to the Colorado constitution. Our responsibility is to defend the state constitution.

TYMKOVICH: I would add to that, that we put on evidence at the trial as to the relative political power of gays and lesbians nationally. I would say that the gay and lesbian community has been and will increasingly be successful in the political process. I think its strength is growing as a community. I think the issue should be fought in the public arena. It has been an effective coalition and I'd keep fighting.

We've heard that after Amendment 2 passed, you called your staff together and said that regardless of whether or not this is now law, you would not tolerate discrimination against gays and lesbians on your staff. Is that true?

That's correct. I've said that anyone would have to answer to me personally if they discriminated against anyone who was gay or lesbian.

Have people in your office come forward about their sexual orientation?

Yes.

Is that a result of Amendment 2's passage and their concern for their status in this office or have they always been known?

Some have been known and I've become aware of more since the passage of Amendment 2. ▼

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London Killer of Gays Convicted, Sentenced

United Press International

LONDON — A man charged with leaving five gay men naked and strangled in their homes was sentenced Monday, December 20, to five life sentences, court officials said.

Judge Michael Sachs passed down the judgment on 39-year-old Colin Ireland, who pleaded guilty to the charges, at the Old Bailey courthouse in central London.

Sachs said Ireland, a former soldier who was listed as unemployed, should never be released.

The case marked the con-

clusion to a spate of killings between March and June that shocked both London police and the city's gay community.

The victims had all been involved in sado-masochistic bondage acts.

During the investigation the killer repeatedly telephoned police, threatening to find a new victim every week.

Ireland was arrested in July following widespread police appeals for help from London's gay community and the release of security camera footage recorded at Charing Cross railway station in central London. ▼

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Tuberculosis by 2000: 8,000,000 HIV-Related Cases

by Charles S. Taylor

ATLANTA (UPI) — In just over a decade, the incidence of tuberculosis is expected to increase by 58 percent around the world, with many of the new cases linked to the HIV epidemic, health experts predicted Thursday, December 16.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, quoting statistics gathered by the World Health Organization, said that by 2005, "the incidence of TB may increase to 11.9 million cases per year — an increase of 58 percent over 1990," when there were an estimated 7.5 million cases occurring annually.

The CDC said demograph-

ic factors such as population growth will be responsible for 77 percent of the predicted increase but that cases associated with the HIV epidemic will account for 23 percent.

"For example, incidence rates for Africa may increase by ten additional cases per 100,000 population per year during 1990-2005, primarily because of the HIV epidemic," the CDC said.

So many HIV-infected people now develop TB that it is considered a marker for AIDS. "During 1990-1999, an estimated 88.2 million persons will develop TB; eight million of those cases will be attributable to HIV infection," the CDC said.

Most of the world's TB cases are occurring in South-

east Asia and the Western Pacific, which accounted for 4.9 million cases in 1990. India reported 2.1 million, China 1.3 million, and Indonesia 400,000.

In the year 2000, an estimated 3.5 million TB deaths will occur, 39 percent more than in 1990, the CDC reported, and approximately 500,000 will be associated with HIV infection. "Almost half of these HIV-associated deaths will occur in sub-Saharan Africa," the CDC predicted.

Health officials estimated that 30 million people will die from TB during the decade, with approximately three million of those deaths associated with HIV infection. ▽

Just in Time for Christmas —

A New Drug for PCP

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The Food and Drug Administration has approved a new drug to treat the most serious cases of Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia or PCP, one of the leading killers of people with AIDS.

Trimetrexate glucuronate, made by U.S. Bioscience Inc. of West Conshohocken, Penn-

sylvania, was approved Monday, December 21. It is the fourth drug that fights PCP, but it is the first drug approved specifically for severe PCP. Many patients do not respond to the existing three drugs — trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole, pentamidine, and atovaquone.

Patients treated with the new drug must be monitored carefully and it must be given

in combination with another medication to counter potentially dangerous side effects.

It has been available on an expanded distribution basis since February 1988, while studies of its effects were continuing. The drug will be sold under the brand name "Neu-Trexin." ▽

Massachusetts BBS Operator Indicted on Kiddie Porn Charges

United Press International

MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS— The federal government has indicted a Massachusetts man for allegedly running a computer bulletin board that offered child pornography to anyone with the right equipment to receive it.

Prosecutors said the sexually explicit images of children were transmitted all over the United States and as far away as New Zealand.

In an indictment unsealed Wednesday, the government said Alden L. Baker Jr., 44, distributed the child pornography from a computer in his home in Medford, on the outskirts of Boston.

The indictment alleges Baker advertised his graphic material on his computer bulletin board, known as "Boston's Eagle's Nest," to those who would log on to the sys-

tem.

The indictment alleged that persons could receive or "download" the images from Baker's system to their own, or could "upload" their own images to Baker's system.

The government also accused Baker of employing or coercing a minor to perform sexually explicit acts to be distributed via computer.

U.S. Attorney Donald K. Stern said this indictment "emphasizes that we will vigorously prosecute any sexual exploitation of children. The use of computerized 'bulletin board' systems which [sic] distribute pornographic images to members throughout the country are [sic] particularly deserving of our vigorous prosecution."

If convicted, Baker faces a maximum of ten years in prison on each count, and a fine of up to \$100,000. ▽

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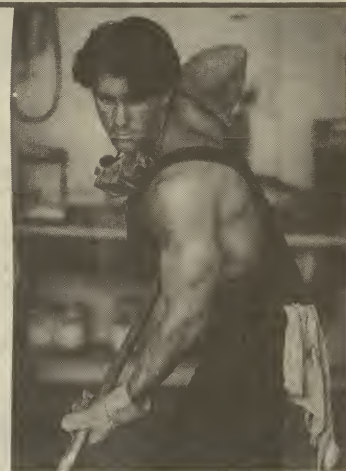
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Obituaries

Paul Barth

June 8, 1941–Dec. 14, 1993

Paul Barth ended his long battle with AIDS on Tuesday, December 14. For over 20 years, until the time of his death, his life was lovingly shared with his lifemate, David Chan. Following the death of Paul's mother in 1990, David was the only close family Paul had. But in a larger sense, Paul and David were both part of a much larger family of close friends they had gathered about them over the years through their love and hospitality.



Few of his friends knew of Paul's illness because he wanted to spare them the anguish he knew it would bring them. It was only in the final stages of his illness that Paul and David began to confide in their friends. Paul was that kind of loving person.

A native of San Francisco and a graduate of Lincoln High School, Paul spent his entire life in The City. In his teen years and on into his twenties, he was prominent in the tennis world, playing in tournaments all over the state and active in several tennis associations. For many years he was also an avid bridge player and amassed hundreds of master points in duplicate play.

Paul lost his battle with AIDS but never lost his courage or his dignity. He will be missed. ▼

Wil Dee Cunningham

April 8, 1953–Dec. 16, 1993

Wil was an advanced California certified nurseryman who saw the good in others and encouraged others to do their best through gentleness.

He is survived by his parents, Jill and Harold; his brothers, Lee, Thomas and Jack; and best friends, Sue and Russ. He worked at O.S.H. from 1971 to 1992 and



for the city of San Jose from 1987 to 1993.

A memorial service will be held at the Odd Fellows Hall at 122 Race St. in San Jose on December 29 at 7:30 p.m. You can call Russ at (415) 364-4184 for directions.

Donations (no flowers, please) may be made to the ARIS Project. We will miss you, Willy (Boo) Bear. ▼

Robert J. Fox

Nov. 18, 1957–Nov. 29, 1993

Robert helped so many people in so many ways. He touched countless hearts and changed the negatives into positives. Perhaps it was his intelligence, his wit, his humor, his wry comments, but most likely it was his love of life.

Robert traveled extensively during his life. He was born in Wyandotte, Michigan, and due to his adopted father's occupation as an electrician, he traveled the East Coast through the southern states to Arizona. One of his favorite lines was "Been there, seen that," and he had. After high school he joined the U.S. Army and was discharged honorably as a PFC. While in the Army he served in the evacuation of Vietnam and was stationed in Guam and Hawaii.

In 1980 Robert moved to West Hollywood and worked as a waiter on Rodeo Drive. Then he decided to work in the oil fields of Texas in 1981, and in 1982, it was back to California, where he collaborated in an interior plant business in Salinas. In 1984 he formed Paradise Plants of Monterey, where one of his accounts was the Pebble Beach Golf Club.

In 1988 Robert began a successful career as a stockbroker. His last position was at the Charles Schwab Co., where he was awarded "most valued co-worker" his first year.

Robert is survived by his domestic partner of four fantastic years, Matthew Malik; his mother, Judith Angelocci; sisters, Debbie, Tammy and Raye-Lynn; brothers, Donald and Timothy; and adopted father, Buddy Fox.

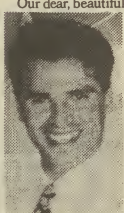
Along with the rest of this world, we love you and we miss you. ▼

Ramiro Garcia

Our dear, beautiful friend Ramiro has passed on. His humor, light, creativity, drama and love were gifts to us all. We will celebrate his spirit by gathering to share our tears and laughter. Please join us. It will be as love and life-filled as he was.

There will be a memorial service/potluck buffet on Sunday, January 9, 4 p.m., at the San Francisco Center for Living.

Donations can be made in Ramiro's name to the San Francisco Center for Living, 4054 18th St., San Francisco, CA 94114; (415) 252-1066. ▼



Ernst H. Hase

April 16, 1946–Dec. 7, 1993

Our friend Ernst Hase passed away at his San Rafael home with Frank Baiamonte, his lover of 13 years, at his side. Ernst moved from Montana to San Francisco in 1974, and subsequently pursued a successful career in architecture with



Gensler and Associates, Bank of America, and the HBE Corporation.

Thanks to Frank's loving care, Ernst maintained a high quality of life during his 13-year battle with AIDS. Frank and Ernst traveled extensively throughout the United States and abroad, and maintained a home marked by the graciousness, beauty, and generosity that characterized their life together.

Friends will miss Ernst's strong but gentle spirit, his acceptance of people's idiosyncrasies, and the Cheshire grin that was the hallmark of his subtle sense of humor. Contributions may be made to Strybing Arboretum Society (Ernst H. Hase Fund), Golden Gate Park, 9th Ave. at Lincoln Way, SF, CA 94122. A celebration of his life will be held in spring 1994. Contact Frank Baiamonte for details. ▼

Paul Anthony La Courreye

June 14, 1947–Dec. 10, 1993

On Dec. 10, 1993, Paul La Courreye, surrounded by friends and family, died of AIDS-related complications at Mt. Zion Hospital. Paul was born in Pasadena, graduated from St. Francis HS, and received his BA in geography from LA State.

He moved to San Francisco 17 years ago, worked for the Environmental Protection Agency, and earned an MS in geography from SFSU.

Paul loved exploring—both foreign and domestic places. While he was with the EPA, he went to New Mexico, Arizona and Hawaii, among other places. Each summer, Paul traveled extensively, chiefly in Europe. He enjoyed exploring new places with his friend, John Hamill. He spoke Italian and French fluently, so he made many friends in Italy, Switzerland, and France. When the political climate changed in Eastern Europe, he and his friend, Aaron Mazria, explored Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

Paul enjoyed exploring deserts, rain forests, Etruscan caves, volcanos and glaciers. Paul's family especially appreciated his discovery of the various members of the Brocard-Pouquette-La Courreye family in Europe, which led to the discovery of his cousin, Kathy Schwertner, in Berkeley.

Paul went twice to the March on Washington, and he supported many AIDS-related charities. An active member of Most Holy Redeemer Parish, he joined a "Renew" Support Group. His memorial service will be held at MHR Church, 100 Diamond St., at 1 p.m. on Jan. 15, 1994. Instead of flowers, please send donations in Paul's name to Project Open Hand, 2720 17th St., San Francisco, CA 94110. Acknowledgments should be sent to his sister, Catherine Blecki, 12764 Alto Verde Lane, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022. ▼



Kenneth S. Mueller

May 12, 1946–Dec. 17, 1993

After a difficult year of declining health and fighting AIDS, Ken succumbed to heart failure on December 17, 1993, at his San Francisco home that he loved so much. With him was his loving partner in life, Jay Margrey.

Ken was raised in typical Midwestern fashion in Wheaton, Illinois, and attended Elmhurst College, majoring in English.

He was employed by AT&T for the past 25 years as a telecommunications specialist. He was the first president of the San Francisco chapter of "league," the gay and lesbian organization sponsored by AT&T. He was also an original member of the HIV support group sponsored by his company. This weekly group provided a constant source of support and comfort for Ken.

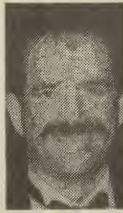
His interests were many and varied—from the loving restoration of Ken and Jay's 1951 MGTD roadster, to his love of music, ranging from Cole Porter to Carmen, to his yearly cross-country trip on his beloved motorcycle. Ken and Jay traveled extensively throughout Europe, and he leaves many friends throughout the world. Most recently, they divided their time between homes in San Francisco and Palm Springs.

Ken was always proud of being a "card-carrying member of MENSA" and his appearance on the TV show *Jeopardy!* He was also proud of being chosen Mr. South of Market of 1989 at the SF Eagle.

In addition to his partner, Ken is survived by his mother, Francis; a brother, Andy; a sister, Felicia; nephews, William and Brandon; all of Wheaton, Illinois; and his ever-supportive Uncle Bob and Aunt Elaine of Ringle, Wisconsin. He also leaves behind his loving feline companions, Lucy and Duffy.

A memorial service will be held on Monday, December 27, at 7 p.m. at the Swedenborgian Church at 3200 Washington Street (at Lyon).

Donations may be made in Ken's name to PAWS, 539 Castro Street, San Francisco, CA 94114 and/or Home Care Companions, 584 Castro Street, Suite 379, San Francisco, CA 94114. ▼



John W. Rowberry

Sept. 1, 1948–Dec. 5, 1993

Former San Francisco resident John W. Rowberry, a journalist whose career spanned over two decades in gay publishing as a writer, editor and critic, died of AIDS complications on Dec. 4 at his home near San Diego, Calif. He was 45.

He is survived by his lover, Gary Voice; his mother and stepfather, Theresa and Fred R. Green of Texas; and predeceased by loving companion, Charles R. Musgrave. No services will be held per his request, and his ashes will be scattered by his lover in places special to the couple. Donations in his memory to San Diego Hospice, 4311 Third Ave., San Diego, CA 92103, or to an AIDS care organization of choice would be appreciated.

Although best known for his strong creative touch with such magazines as *Drummer* and *Inches*, Rowberry was unconditionally committed to fighting censorship openly within or outside the gay community, communicating across international barriers, and championing gay and lesbian rights wherever and however they were threatened. A belief in direct as well as free speech led Rowberry to coin the celebratory term "gay porn" in place of the closeted "all-male" and to consummate the marriage of activist politics and gay erotica in magazines such as *The Alternate*. He encouraged contributors to stretch themselves in word and picture while preserving the unique style of each publication.

Rowberry met artist Musgrave on a weekend trip to Galveston, Texas, in 1969; they were to be separated only by Musgrave's death from ARC in 1987. The couple moved from Houston, where Rowberry continued his theatre work as production designer from the Queens' Haven nightclub, to Los Angeles in 1972, where he soon melded his visual art talents with publishing. After a short stint with the *Advocate*, Rowberry became editor of the magazine *Entertainment West*, then found a long-term home with *Alternate Publications*.

Relocating with the company to San Francisco in 1979, Rowberry became editor of *Drummer*, began *The Alternate* and shortly thereafter, *Foreskin Quarterly*, and *Mach*. In 1985 he left the company to take full editorial control of *Stud Flix*, *Inches*, *Uncut* and then *Stallion* magazines and to publish special interest magazines such as *Skins*. He relocated to San Diego in 1988 shortly after meeting Voice and moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, where they remained for three years. Here Rowberry established his reputation in gay video critique, following his 1986 *Gay Video: A Guide to Erotica* with the annual *Adam Film World Directories*.

Rowberry's fiction has been published in anthologies and the book *Lewd Conduct*. He also wrote the screenplay for the gay erotic film *Blue Angel* in 1986, starred in the movie *My Uncle and I*, and wrote and played the title role in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. ▼

Steven Parker

July 13, 1959–Dec. 20, 1993

It is said that the small towns produce the most witty, urbane and sophisticated people. Just as a small town in Ohio produced Cole Porter, so Forestville, California, produced Steven Parker or "The Parker" to his close friends. Parker was born July 13, 1959. He quickly realized that the family farm was not for him and moved to San Francisco in 1978. Parker enjoyed being on the cutting edge, which accounted for his career as a software consultant. He worked at many different companies and made friends everywhere he went. In 1991 he was diagnosed with AIDS. Nevertheless, he kept his devastating wit until the end, which came December 20, 1993.

Parker leaves behind a devoted circle of friends, among whom are Peter Ferrer, Marybeth Hillard, Patrick Carroll, Lee Duck, Robin Burton, Gwen Owen, Mary Ann Havens and Murray Selkow. Family members include parents, Gladden and Theodora Parker; brothers, Daniel, David, and Guy; sister, Carol; and grandmother, Irma Prior. Much appreciation also goes to Visiting Nurses and Hospice of San Francisco and the staff of San Francisco General Hospital Ward 5A. Donations may be made to the SFGH 5A Patient Care Fund.

A remembrance will be held January 2, 1994. Contact Marybeth at (415) 431-9418 for details. ▼



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Obituaries

Ed Verzi

Dec. 18, 1956–Nov. 20, 1993

Even though Ed was born in San Jose, he loved to move and, therefore, called several places "home," including Seattle, Sacramento and San Francisco. He was a very outgoing and giving person, so it was easy for him to meet people, making friends everywhere he went.

Before his last job, which was working as a bartender at the Lone Star in San Francisco, Ed supported himself by doing what he really loved to do, shopping at estate sales and flea markets then reselling the merchandise.

Once he was diagnosed, he helped reinstate the HIV+ Support Group at MCC to help others who were going through what he was.

For the last 4½ months, Ed spent his life at Visiting Nurses Hospice, where he received incredible love and support from his sister, Gloria; mom, Bernice; his attendants, Sheila, Donna, Pat and Jackie; and his friends, Richard and Noah, who were always there when needed. Special thanks go to Dr. Glenn and Nurse Margie of Kaiser Hospital, and to Ed's Shanti volunteer, Sandy Shaw.

Besides his sister, Ed is survived by his Mom and other family members.

No services were requested. But come spring, his ashes will be scattered in Armstrong Woods, Guerneville, California.

Edwina — I'm sorry I couldn't give you the commitment you wanted, but I do love you. — Marty. ▼



James T. Crawford

April 18, 1947–Dec. 5, 1993

James was the loving partner, friend, and companion of Stan Z. He was also the loyal, caring friend, co-worker and skating partner of Tom, George, Lynn and Lois. Rest in peace, "Jamie." ▼

Richard J. Manzano

Jan. 17, 1935–Nov. 19, 1993

This gifted and handsome man left the world with great courage. He was the beloved partner of Richard Allen for 15 years, and they restored many Victorian homes in San Francisco during the '80s. Richard served in the army during the occupation of Korea and was honorably discharged.

Richard and Richard spend many summers camping on the North Coast and in the Sierras, enjoying nature. Richard had a truly unique and original sense of humor and great compassion for humanity. He is remembered for his kind nature and was great fun to be with.

He is survived by his large and supportive family in Los Angeles — mother, Louisa Rodriguez; brothers, Vincent, Raymond and Larry; sisters, Carmen, Cecilia and Jessie. And his friends, "darling daughter" Jos'e, Ronn, Judy Avery, Gary, Susan, John, Pablo, Ron and Michael. Special thanks to the staff at Fort Miley Veterans Hospital: Lynn, Mignon, Sandy, Dr. Lamperis, Paula and Tom.

He has passed into the light and left us all better people for having known him. We will never forget you, Little Bear. Donations may be made to Project Open Hand. For information, call Richard Allen at 648-1454. ▼

Military News

Meinhold

(Continued from page 1)

vers. He was encouraged by the intangibles: "When you say something about being gay and they look at you like they understand what you are talking about," he said, "for me that is the big hump. If you get past that, then we're talking legal details."

In his final rebuttal, the government attorney referred to a case in which a court deferred to the military's prohibition barring a Jewish officer from wearing a yarmulke while on duty. One of the judges quickly cut the lawyer off, saying the analogy was flawed, and would be applicable only if the officer had said he was Jewish, and was discharged because there was the likelihood that he might wear a yarmulke.

Maguire was delighted, as it was the argument he would have made given the opportunity. He thought it indicated the seriousness of the preparation and thought the judges had already given to the case. He expects a decision relatively quickly, perhaps in two months, but no more than six.

Another great photo op

As Meinhold was fighting for his military career against a candidate he voted for, Bob Inman was having his military career revived by a candidate he voted against. The point that Clinton's had voted for Bush choice was made in Inman's own great photo opportunity on the White House Lawn. It seemed to satisfy both Clinton and Inman to acknowledge their differing political views, as it no doubt satisfied Meinhold to consider that he outlasted Les Aspin, the former Secretary of Defense who personally crusaded to boot Meinhold from the Navy. What remains to be seen is if he outlasts Inman.

Inman is a 30-year career naval officer who made his mark in the intelligence field and capped his career at the National Security Agency (NSA), the nation's high tech espionage agency, where he was director. He then moved to be deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) but left after a year, reportedly because of differences over covert operations with his boss, William Casey. He has worked the last decade at senior level jobs in private sector computer and defense companies.

An unnamed White House official, briefing the press on the nominee's background, said that Inman had said he "could live with" the president's policy of "don't ask, don't tell."

Leaders of national lesbian and gay groups are still learning about the new nominee.

"He's a spook," said Tanya Domi, retired Army captain and legislative director for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "He doesn't have a real big public record." Nonetheless, she is optimistic about Inman because of his record at the NSA.

"I am mildly optimistic," said Evan Wolfson, attorney with the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. "There certainly are some things in his reputation that give one a shred of hope and that is certainly more than we have right now from Aspin."

Intelligence is very gay

Wolfson criticized Aspin for his role in the military

ban, saying that he "proved utterly useless as far as giving Clinton support or cover." Wolfson believes that once Clinton makes the political decision to lift the ban, Inman will be a much stronger secretary in terms of getting the military to implement it.

There is also reason to speculate that Inman himself might be supportive of lifting the ban. As Randy Shilts documented in *Conduct Unbecoming*, intelligence is one of the gayest segments of the military and Inman was surely aware of the gay presence in his commands.

Inman was director of NSA in 1980 when a landmark decision was reached concerning a gay man employed there. Internal security, upon learning the man was gay, moved to follow existing policy and fire the man as a security risk. The employee fought that action and won a recommendation from the NSA's legal office to be reinstated. Inman signed off on that recommendation, signaling a breakthrough on security clearance for gay employees of that super secret agency.

The high tech industry has a reputation for being one of the most gay-friendly sectors in the economy. That experience may also have had a positive effect on Inman.

Administration schisms

Meanwhile, schisms within the Clinton administration over the military ban again surfaced in the press, this time in a front page article in the Sunday *New York Times*.

An earlier divisive debate centered on whether to appeal Judge Terry Hatter's injunction forbidding all gay-based discharges until the Meinhold case was decided. Eventually, the administration did appeal; the Supreme Court left the injunction in place for Meinhold himself but removed its class action protections; and the military moved ahead with more discharges.

The latest debate centers around whether to appeal the decision in the case of Joseph Steffan, the gay Naval Academy midshipman ordered reinstated by a U.S. Appeals Court panel in November. The government has until the end of December to ask for an *en banc* review by the entire U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and a few months longer for an appeal directly to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Wolfson believes it is unlikely an appeal would be made directly to the Supreme Court without first going the *en banc* route. Some have argued that the three-member panel that heard the Steffan case contained the most liberal judges on the circuit and might be overruled by the more conservative majority. Marc Wolinsky, Steffan's attorney, doesn't see that as likely, given the arguments and the language of the written decision.

The debate within the administration is over legal strategies and their impact on writing and defending regulations and implementing the policy of "don't ask, don't tell." The Justice Department seems to be arguing to not appeal Steffan, to concede cases under the old regulations, and to force a new round of litigation under the new regulations that will be issued shortly. The Defense Department, on the other hand, feels the



Gay Naval Academy midshipman Joseph Steffan's case is the cause for wrangling within the Clinton administration.

need to defend the principles of the old regulations in further appeals because the new regulations share so many of those same principles.

Lambda withdraws suit

When the new "don't ask, don't tell" regulations come out, and it could be any day, they will be challenged immediately. Lambda has agreed to

withdraw a pending suit against the old regulation, *Doe v. Aspin*, involving a number of plaintiffs, in exchange for the Defense Department not taking action against those clients for at least 20 days after the new regulations are published.

"That gives us a window to protect them and challenge the new regs," said Beatrice Dohrn, Lambda's legal director. Wolfson says they may reformulate that case and possibly take it to another court, depending on exactly what the regulations say, "but we indubitably will have a case, and there will be others."

Wolfson thinks there will be a federal district court ruling on the new regulations by the end of 1994, but does not see the battle ending until there is an appellate decision as well. He thinks that continued court rebuffs, a strengthened presidency, and a changing social and political climate on the issue will finally convince Clinton to implement the policy he claims to believe in, that of ending discrimination against gays and lesbians in the military. ▼

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1993

(Continued from page 1)

volunteer work for the group, and then fled the state. McCain pleaded guilty on January 7 to grand theft and fraud charges shortly after her arrest, and received 16 months in state prison for the crimes.

A nationwide day of protest on January 8, called by **christian fundamentalists** in response to President Clinton's promise to end the ban on gays in the military, fizzled.

In Washington, D.C., only six fundamentalists showed up at the protest, and National Gay and Lesbian Task Force spokesman Robert Bray reported small numbers at similar protests in Seattle, Los Angeles, Houston, Chicago, New York, and Colorado Springs.

Only two fundamentalists appeared at a rally in front of the San Francisco City Hall, despite claims that the rally would draw thousands.

150 local lesbian and gay activists were on hand.

An Asian-American Orange County man was found unconscious and in serious condition following a vicious January 9 attack in Laguna Beach. An 18-year-old man was taken into police custody on attempted murder charges, and two other youths were also under arrest, in the savage bashing of **Loc Minh Truong**, a Vietnamese man in his 50s who was married and the father of four children. Gay residents of Laguna expressed fear and concern over the attack because the youths shouted anti-gay epithets as they beat Truong. The victim was beaten so severely that officers could not initially determine his nationality.



Marky Mark

Brooding talentless pop star
Supposed heterosexual whose interface with homosexuals generates great publicity
Beat up Asians as a youth
Apologized to the community
Works out a lot
Following assault incident, contract renewed with Calvin Klein



Terry Helvey

Brooding talentless sailor
Supposed heterosexual whose interface with homosexuals generates great bodily harm
Beat up Allen Schindler as a lark
Apologized to Dorothy Hadjys
Used steroids; Worked out a lot
Following murder conviction, sentenced to prison

—Jim Provenzano

In San Diego, the **Boy Scouts of America** and its explorer program were thrown out of the San Diego Unified School District. The action was taken on January 12, after the BSA fired El Cajon police officer Church Merino, an openly gay cop, who advised a scout troop. The BSA action violated the school district's ban on allowing groups that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation from using school property or conducting in-school pro-

grams for students.

The congregation of the **Dolores Street Baptist Church**, the city's oldest Southern Baptist Church, withdrew from the Southern Baptist Convention in January. The church pulled its membership over the 14.5 million member denomination's anti-gay policies.

The SBC was expected to approve a resolution excluding any local church that "affirmed, endorsed, or ap-

proved homosexual behavior."

The San Francisco church made the decision to withdraw after two southern SBC churches were expelled because for ordaining a gay man as a minister and conducting a holy union for a gay couple.

In January, a U.S. sailor who jumped ship to care for his terminally ill lover remained in the brig Treasure Island, although no formal charges had been brought against him.

David Carpenter was taken in to custody in December after he left his post on the U.S.S. Callahan in August 1990 to care for Leslie Hamilton, his lover of ten years, who was dying of AIDS and had been abandoned by his family. Hamilton later died of the disease.

The Navy declined to discuss the case with the **Bay Area Reporter** and Carpenter's attorney said they could hold the sailor for three months without charging him.

San Francisco Health Department officials and Mayor Frank Jordan announced that AIDS claimed its 10,000th victim in San Francisco in January.

Two gay men and a lesbian who were on active duty in the Navy publicly disclosed their sexual orientation on January 16 at a rally at Moffett Field Naval Air Station in Sunnyvale. The service personnel said they were tired of living a lie, and wanted to stand up and be counted in anticipation of President Clinton's promise to lift the **ban on gays in the military**.

Porn star **Tim Lowe** was arrested January 21 and charged with the murder of San Francisco resident Alan Kinkead. Lowe was ordered held on \$1 million bail.

Former San Mateo County Supervisor **Tom Nolan**, defeated in his bid to become a U.S. Senator from San Mateo, was appointed Executive Director of San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association.

Anti-gay violence was on the rise in **Colorado** in the wake of the November 1992 passage of Amendment 2, according to the Anti Violence Project of the Lesbian and Gay Community center in Colorado. More than 20 anti-gay hate incidents had been reported throughout the state in the first two weeks of January, the report said.

Bill Clinton was inaugurated as President on January 20.

On January 23, the Reverend **Jeff Johnson** was installed as the first openly gay pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Johnson was made full pastor of First United Lutheran Church, a San Francisco congregation that was under suspension for ordaining Johnson in 1990 in violation of the church ban on sexually active gay clergy.

Leaders of more than 40 lesbian and gay groups met with Mayor **Frank Jordan** on January 26 and presented Jordan with five demands, including input on a replacement for Supervisor Roberta Achtenberg, Jordan's public support against the Boy



Mayor Frank Jordan.

Scouts of America, and increased funding for AIDS/HIV services.

Jordan made no financial commitments but agreed to hold a "town hall" meeting with the lesbian and gay community and meet with the leaders on a monthly basis.

Jordan also appointed Jeanette Lazam, a bisexual activist, to the Human Rights Commission, and lesbian activist and Shanti co-director Melinda Paras to the San Francisco Health Commission that oversees the Health Department.

Gay and lesbian groups were struggling to regain their momentum on the issue of gays in the military after religious and conservative groups began an unprecedented mobilization against allowing homosexuals to openly serve in the armed forces. The right wing, led by Georgia Democrat Senator **Sam Nunn** of the Housed Armed Service Committee, wanted the ban codified into law and Clinton's effort to lift the ban was in jeopardy less than two weeks after his inauguration as President.

Gay Asian and Pacific Alliance celebrated its fifth anniversary on January 30. Since its start, the group had established a dance company, a men's chorus, and the Gay Asian and Pacific Alliance Community HIV Project to target Asian-American gay men with HIV and AIDS.

Four sailors and two Marines who assaulted a gay man in the Castro in February 1992 were sentenced to suspended state prison sentences and one year in county jail on February 1, and would receive less than honorable discharges following their guilty plea in the bashing. In the group attack, one of the men lured the victim from a gay bar to a Castro district doorway with the promise of a sexual liaison but the group attacked the victim instead.

February

On Groundhog Day, Supervisor **Roberta Achtenberg** held a press conference on the steps of City Hall to announce that she would accept President's Clinton's nomination of her to become Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Achtenberg would oversee the 700-person Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Unit.

The \$117,000-a-year post required confirmation by the Senate; right wing conservatives, including Senator Jesse Helms, R-North Carolina, promised to try to block Achtenberg's appointment, which was the highest ranking federal post to which an open lesbian had ever been nominated.

Achtenberg had been the co-chair of President Clinton's national election effort.

(Continued on next page)

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'93 Year In Review

(Continued from previous page)

The U.S. Navy announced on February 3 that **Airman Apprentice Terry Helvey** would be charged with murder and court martial, for the October 27 murder of **Allen Schindler**, a gay sailor who was beaten to death in an attack at a public restroom at the Sasebo Naval Base in Yokosuka, Japan.

After months of national publicity on the case, the Navy still had not announced a trial date. **Airman Charles Vins** was given a four month sentence the attack after he pleaded guilty to lesser charges, even though he had held Schindler down while Helvey slaughtered him.

On February 3, a gay man with HIV sued **AssetCare**, a bill collection firm where he had been employed for seven years. **Robert Runkle** was repeatedly physically and sexually harassed by anti-gay co-workers and supervisors, including one who brandished a pistol in Runkle's presence and then said he was going to go buy bullets to "kill faggots."

Following a *Bay Area Reporter* article on the status of a gay sailor who was held in the Treasure Island brig after going AWOL to care for a lover dying of AIDS, sailor **David Carpenter** was given a less-than-honorable discharge from the Navy and released from the brig.

A **Gay And Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation** billboard above an auto repair shop in San Jose was covered with a shroud on February 2, following a bomb threat against the straight-owned shop. The billboard featured a very pregnant **Karen Norman** and her partner **Pat Norman**, a longtime lesbian activist. The caption on the billboard read "Another Traditional Family," and was one of 23 public service ads placed by **Patrick Media**, a Northern California firm.

The **San Francisco Board of Education** passed a measure on February 9 to withdraw an estimated \$2.5 million in funds from the Bank of America. The vote was a protest of BofA's funding of the anti-gay Boy Scouts of America.

A report by the **National Research Council** that said AIDS would affect America less significantly than previously believed was denounced by American Foundation For AIDS Research director **Mervyn Silverman** and local AIDS service groups as "unacceptable." The report said that the disease would remain concentrated in "socially marginalized groups."

President **Bill Clinton** said that he intended to lift the ban on gays in the military at a February 9 press conference, but press secretary **Dee Dee Myers** said there was "no particular timetable."

There was open speculation in the gay community about who Mayor **Frank Jordan** would appoint as the replacement for **Supervisor Roberta Achtenberg**. Among the names under consideration were **Sandra Hernandez, MD**, former director of the San Francisco AIDS Office, and **Carlotta Del Portillo**, but Jordan's press spokesperson **Staci Walters** said Jordan had no comment.

The Human Rights Campaign Fund, The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and other gay and lesbian groups were the subject of scrutiny and criticism concerning their bungling of the gays in the military issue. Among the accusations were charges that they were slow to respond to the media firestorm that broke in January over opposition by Joint Chief of Staff General **Colin Powell** and Senator **Sam Nunn**.

Torie Osborn, newly appointed NGLTF executive director, had chosen to remain on vacation during the controversy and **Peri Jude Radecic**,

second in command at NGLTF, was also on vacation.

A group called the **Campaign For Military Service** formed in early February to lobby for lifting the ban. The group was led by former **Lambda Legal Defense** and Education fund head **Tom Stoddard** and **David Mixner**, a onetime college roommate of **Clinton**.

Gay activist **Michael Petrelis** held a February 17 press conference at the Japanese consulate in San Francisco and called for a boycott of Sony products, to draw attention to the way Japanese officials withdrew from the murder case of US Naval Seaman **Alan Schindler**. The sailor's confessed killer, **Seaman Terry Helvey**, was attempting to use the "homosexual panic" defense to justify his slaying of **Schindler**. **Helvey** initially claimed **Schindler** made a pass at him inside the restroom where he was stomped to death.

A fire at **A Different Light** bookstore on Castro Street caused more than \$25,000 damages when it broke out in the store's new telephone switching equipment on February 18. The store was closed for two days for repairs.

The manager for **Marky Mark** apologized on February 18 for bias attacks the rap performer and underwear pitchman committed as a teenager.

Mark acknowledged he had been involved in attacks against Asian-Americans after the Committee For Anti-Asian Violence said it would go public with his juvenile record. **Marks** was also targeted by **GLAAD** after he said nothing on a talk show when reggae singer **Shabba Ranks** said that "gays should be crucified."

The U.S. Senate voted February 18 to prohibit President **Clinton** from fulfilling a campaign promise that would permit **HIV-positive aliens** to enter the United States as immigrants. The Senate, by a 76-23 vote, approved an amendment that turned the current ban on HIV immigration into law.

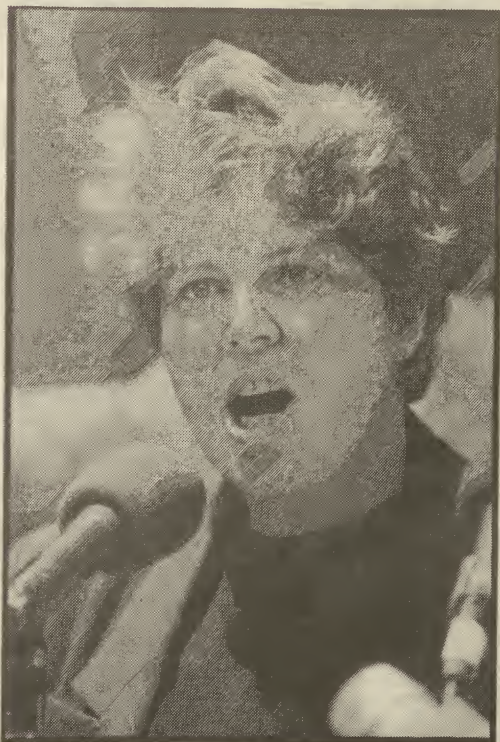
The day after the vote, a hunger strike among more 200 adult Haitian immigrants entered its fourth week at **Guantanamo Naval base** in Cuba. The Haitians were being "detained" at the Naval base.

A San Francisco Superior Court judge dismissed attempted murder charges against **Wayne Bruce Lee** on February 22. **Lee**, a gay man with HIV, was accused of intentionally spattering four police officers with his blood during a suicide attempt in January. A district attorney told the **B.A.R.** that **D.A. Arlo Smith's** office was reviewing the decision, possibly to refile the original assault charges against **Lee**, which had been increased to attempted murder while **Lee** was in custody.

March

The U.S. Navy continued to refuse to discuss details about the beating death of **Allen Schindler**, but unnamed Naval sources leaked information to the press that they did not believe the murder was an anti-gay attack but the violent outgrowth of a romantic relationship between **Schindler** and confessed killer **Terry Helvey**.

(Continued on next page)



Torie Osborn

(Photo: Rick Gerhartner)

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(Continued from previous page)

San Francisco Supervisor **Barbara Kaufman's** resolution to establish a Joint Task Force on the HIV epidemic had passed the Board of Supervisors unanimously.

The 25-member Task Force, jointly established by the Board and the Mayor, would be comprised of a dozen members appointed by the Board of Supervisors, nine members appointed by the Mayor and four appointed by the Department of Public Health. The task force would investigate streamline current and existing services, coordinate state and federal AIDS funding and lobbying. An estimated 28,000 San Francisco residents had HIV infection, according to Department of Health statistics and more than 9,000 residents had AIDS.

The Evergreen Community College District voted in February to divest \$61,000 in funds from the Bank of America.

A gay attorney charged with stealing more than \$40,000 from a client with AIDS was scheduled to go on trial on March 15 in San Francisco Superior Court. **Walter Caplan**, 46, was charged with felony grand theft for allegedly stealing the funds from the bank account of Charles Cyberski, a friend and former client.

The United States Department of Justice filed an appeal in the case of gay Petty Officer **Keith Meinhold**, calling it a necessary step to maintain the gay ban compromise reached by President Clinton and military leaders earlier in the year.

Meinhold had been ordered reinstated in January by the US Court of Appeals in San Francisco in January. The Justice Department said that its motion wouldn't effect the status of Meinhold.

Shanti Project, San Francisco's well known AIDS service provider, was in big trouble with the Health Depart-

ment after an audit revealed the agency had mismanaged more than \$2.7 million in AIDS housing contracts in previous contract years. The agency attributed the financial mess to a lack of appropriate computer software but critics, including former employees, said the mess was due to Shanti management's use of the funds to build a second tier of management at the agency.

San Francisco State University announced on March 11 that it would become the first campus within the California State University system to offer a minor in **bisexual, lesbian, and gay studies**. The 24-unit major included courses offered through an interdisciplinary agreement among 12 of the university's departments and almost two dozen faculty.

On March 15, Mayor Frank Jordan fulfilled a campaign promise by ordering a state of health emergency in the city and directing the San Francisco Department of Public Health to implement a **needle exchange program** targeting high AIDS risk injection users.

Jordan's action sanctioned Prevention Point, a group that had been distributing an estimated 15,000 needles a week to injection users, and allowed the city to provide the group with funds to continue operation.

In its annual March report, **Community United Against Violence** detailed a grim 94 percent increase in the number of reports to the agency of anti-lesbian and gay harassment in the San Francisco area the previous year.



Down for the accounts: Shanti's Melinda Paras and Eric Rofes. (Photo: Janet Van Ham)

The 1992 tally encompassed 435 incidents, including 243 cases of physical assault.

More than 300 pro-choice activists attended a local rally on March 11 to draw attention to the **increasing violence perpetrated by anti-abortion forces**.

Two days later on March 13, abortion rights activists from around the state converged on Fremont, California, to prevent Operation Rescue from holding a strategy meeting. One pro-choice activist was arrested on misdemeanor charges.

District Attorney Arlo Smith's office refiled charges against **Wayne Bruce Lee**, the gay man with HIV who was accused of attempted murder last October.

Smith's office indicated that it would pursue lesser charges of assault against Lee, who allegedly intentionally spattered four police officers with his blood during a suicide attempt.

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund was under scrutiny for its refusal to take an appeals case involving the sentence of a gay sailor on forced sodomy charges, despite evidence his confession was coerced, the statements of two victims that they committed perjury when they said the sex was forced, and revelations that the charges

may have been in retaliation against sailor **Larry Meholick**, who was serving a six-year term on the charges at Ft. Leavenworth.

Lambda responded to the charges that it was not interested in justice by acknowledging that it took cases for public relations potential and said that Meholick's case didn't "benefit a larger population of people beyond the individual plaintiffs," regardless of his innocence or need for legal assistance.

On March 25, San Francisco Supervisor **Carole Migden** introduced legislation that would require all bars and restaurant that serve alcohol to have condoms available for customers to purchase as an AIDS prevention measure.

A University of Maryland professor offered a **\$10,000 reward for outing** a four star military officer, a living roman Catholic cardinal, or a sitting US Supreme Court justice. William Percy made the offer to anyone who makes the first outing, because he believed gays were being harassed in the military and that there were closet cases who were supporting such mistreatment by their silence.

The economic loss to the state of **Colorado** because of a boycott over anti-gay Amendment 2 was estimated at \$42 million dollars. ▼



Former U.S. sailor Larry Meholick in prison at Leavenworth.

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Nightline Will Be A Dayline For Holidays

The AIDS/HIV Nightline, a telephone counseling resource that operates under the auspices of San Francisco Suicide Prevention, will be extending its hours during the holiday season.

At a time when suicides are known to rise dramatically, and when people with AIDS and HIV may be feeling more alone and hopeless than ever, the Nightline will stand by to offer assistance 24 hours a day.

Normally open from 5 p.m. to 5 a.m. nightly, the Nightline will take the unusual step of staying open around the clock for nine days when "most AIDS service agencies are closed and friends and caregivers may be out of town or unavailable," according to David Paisley, the Nightline's program director. The new hours will be in effect Friday, December 24, until Saturday, January 1.

The AIDS/HIV Nightline provides emotional support and crisis intervention services during nighttime hours, the only program to do so in the United States. San Franciscans can reach the service at 668-AIDS. For the rest of Northern California, the number is 1-800-273-AIDS.

The nightline is frequently in need of volunteers. For more information, call (415) 752-4866.

—I.A. Kisselman

Skating on Thin Ice

by Michael C. Botkin

This year the annual "Muppets on Ice" show has been plagued with an unusual problem: anonymous but persistent rumors that "Ernie and Bert" of *Sesame Street* fame, perhaps the most famous of all the "Muppet" characters, are a gay couple. The rumor has haunted the ice show across the country, surfacing repeatedly and causing flurries of phone calls to local producers from edgy customers reluctant to expose their children to homoerotic ice capades.

Commentary

The show's producers have taken the unprecedented step of issuing an official denial that Ernie and Bert are now or ever have been homosexuals and/or romantically involved with each other. Since they stayed "in" the closet, this incident doesn't quite count as the first-ever "outing" of a puppet (as we disbelieve recent rumors that Officer Brendan O'Smarty, the SFPD's most popular wood-headed cop — Mayor Jordan runs a distant second — was spotted in the Castro flirting with a clothing dummy at All American Boy). However, it does count as the first-ever public denial of a puppet's homosexuality.

Whatever the nature of Ernie and Bert's relationship — and we'll come back to that in a moment — it's easy to understand why these rumors have caught on so readily. For starts, there's the fact that Jim Henson, the creator of the Muppets, was gay and died of AIDS ("massive bacterial infection" according to the dailies — an immune system breakdown typical of PWAs and otherwise unheard of). This heritage leaves Henson's creations suspect, because even if he didn't mean to portray a gay couple, he may have done so inadvertently or unconsciously.

The other *Sesame Street* characters don't come off as a particularly butch or heterosexually active crowd. Big Bird is definitely a big-time nelly. If Miss Piggy isn't the archetypal fag hag, I don't know who is. Kermit the Frog, her reluctant paramour, is so wimpy he makes President Clinton look butch. Aside from the rather sterile and conflicted Piggy-Kermit romance, Ernie and Bert are the only Muppets with an ongoing, intimate relationship.

Opportunistic homos?

One could argue that this reflects the unfortunate absence of female characters among the classic *Sesame Street* cast: most Muppets are either clearly male or — more typically — androgynous and/or sexless. But this would merely make Ernie and Bert "opportunistic" homosexuals, men who have sex with other men because of a lack of female partners (as in prison or the military).

Finally, there are the specifics of their relationship, as revealed over time in numerous *Sesame Street* episodes. They live together, share a single bedroom (although, like Dick Van Dyke and Mary Tyler Moore, they have separate beds), and ap-

pear to maintain a common household to the extent of sharing food. They spend most of their time together, and neither one has ever dated a woman or referred to a past or present romantic involvement with the opposite sex. This might not be enough to officially "out" them, but I don't think they'd have much chance of getting into the military, the new "don't ask/don't tell" policy notwithstanding.

Intrigued by the rumors and the denials, I attempted to verify the story via the queer underground. Anonymous sources in the industry insist that Ernie and Bert are "as queer as Rock Hudson" and, furthermore, "that everyone knows about it but keeps it secret." One aged ventriloquist dummy now retired from the vaudeville/gong-show circuit, who we'll refer to as "Woody," claims to have been one of Ernie's first lovers.

Anonymous sources in the industry insist that Ernie and Bert are "as queer as Rock Hudson."

"He was insatiable and unstable," my informant reported. "He could never stay faithful and was always running around behind my back and picking up godawful diseases. After he gave me termites and dry rot, I dumped him. Shortly after that he hooked up with *Sesame Street* and went back in the closet." Woody continued, "There are lots of stories about how he cheats on Bert with Kermit and who knows what other critters, and how it drives Bert into jealous fits that poison the atmosphere on the set for everyone."

(Other sources, it should be noted, claim that Ernie and Bert are a quietly devoted couple and that the numerous stories about Ernie's promiscuity are vicious lies so typical of the show-biz scene.)

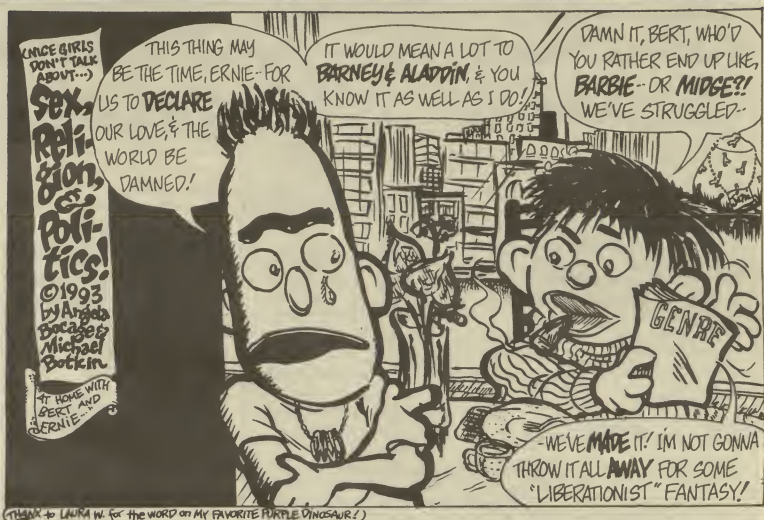
Batman & Robin & Bugs & Elmer

Woody says that homosexuality is widespread among the puppet world. "Look, you spend all day with some guy's hand up your butt — how many heterosexuals are going to put up with that?" he said.

He might be surprised at the answer to that particular question, but the existence of homosexuality among puppets, dolls and toys is coming under increasing scrutiny. Not long ago the mainstream press suddenly realized that "Magic Earring Ken" is gay. Rumor has it that a weekly tabloid will soon print exclusive photos of the popular dinosaur "Barney" engaging in suspicious play with young boys at a party at Michael Jackson's "Neverland" ranch.

"Barney says that it was just harmless fun that occurred at a 'pajama party,'" Woody sneered, "but the pictures will show that Barney wasn't wearing any pajamas."

Any day now we expect



Robin to bring a massive lawsuit against Batman on multiple charges. The Boy Wonder will likely claim that Batman, as "manager" for his "young ward," used his foster-parent position to sexually abuse young Robin (who was underage at that time). Rumor has it that Robin is motivated by bitterness at having been unceremoniously dumped for Cat Woman when his one-time daddy, the tight-wearing crime fighter, got a chance to "cross over" to a mainstream audience with big-budget movies.

Although I'm usually glad to see gay male relationships, fictional or otherwise, discussed by the media, I'm disappointed that all of their recent portrayals have been so

negative and contradictory. Michael Jackson's alleged affair with a young boy is the most prominent example: Michael denies it ever took place, and his young partner has since denounced it as exploitative and abusive. A self-proclaimed ex-lover of Cardinal Bernardin of Chicago has stepped forward to make their past relationship public (and to sue the Catholic Church for ten million dollars), but the cardinal says he never even met the dude.

Now Ernie and Bert are in the spotlight and, like all the others, are denying everything. It's not bad enough that we're denied basic human rights, witch-hunted out of the military and increasingly bashed on the streets — now

homosexuality is under attack even among fictional characters. Once they start looking, who knows what they'll find? Will the relationship between Bugs Bunny and Elmer Fudd stand up to intense scrutiny, in view of how often Bugs did drag? Could anyone mistake the characters on *Pee Wee's Playhouse* for heterosexuals?

The rumors about Ernie and Bert appear to have been quashed for the present, but we're confident that they'll soon resurface and, furthermore, that this is only the tip of the iceberg of submerged but pervasive queerness among fictional characters, puppets and toys. Today the toy stores; tomorrow, the world! ▼

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News Briefs

Estimate: More than 50,000 HIV-positive Filipinos

MANILA — For every known case of HIV infection in the Philippines, there may be 100 people who are infected but unaware of it, Health Secretary Juan Flavio said Thursday, December 9.

"Our estimate is that 50,000 Filipinos are infected with HIV, although only 500 know about their conditions because they have been tested," Flavio told radio station DZRH.

He said there are 111 reported cases of full-blown AIDS. So far, 72 people have died from the disease.

Health officials previously warned that the Philippines could experience an AIDS catastrophe similar to Thailand. Like Thailand, the Philippines has a large community of returning overseas contract workers, considered to be a high-risk group.

Prostitution is also rampant in the Philippines, a predominantly Catholic country. However, many brothels are operated clandestinely, making it more difficult to monitor the spread of the disease. ▼

— United Press International

A Texas KKKristmas, 220 Miles from Apple's New Doorstep

VIDOR, TEXAS — The Ku Klux Klan sold T-shirts, tapes, and confederate flag stickers at a weekend roadside Christmas gift sale in Vidor, the east Texas home of an all-white public housing complex.

Housing and Urban Development officials are trying to integrate the housing project and predict African-American families will move into the complex again in January.

Michael Lowe, leader of the Texas KKK, participated in the sale. He was released from jail December 4 while the Texas Supreme Court decides whether he must turn over his group's membership list.

Saturday, he joined about ten other KKK members at the sale — featuring "Klana Klaus," who wore a full-length red robe with a Klan insignia and combat boots.

Four black adults and five children moved into Vidor's 74-unit housing complex earlier this year, as part of a federal court order to desegregate public housing in 36 East Texas counties. All later moved out, saying they feared racial violence.

Vidor is located approximately 220 miles from Round Rock, Texas, where county commissioners voted to deny Apple Computers a tax incentive to build a new plant that would provide the area with over 700 jobs. The commissioners' reason: Apple's health benefit package covers same-sex domestic partners, and therefore might encourage "that sort" to move to Round Rock. Eventually, enough commissioners changed their minds to offer the company the tax break, and Apple has announced its intention to start building the facility soon. ▼

— United Press International

Funny, We Heard It Was Edward...

Professor William Percy of the University of Massachusetts at Boston is offering \$10,000 for information confirming the homosexuality of any U.S. Roman Catholic cardinal, justice of the Supreme Court, four-star member of the U.S. armed forces on active duty, archbishop of the Church of England, any British prime minister (dead or alive), any top-ranking officer of the British military, or any member of the House of Windsor. He says he needs the material for a book he's working on, *Outing: Shattering the Conspiracy of Silence*. Does Queen Elizabeth II have another problem in her "annus horribilis"? Informed sources said she's already preoccupied with the possible fallout from muckraker Kitty Kelly's upcoming unauthorized biography of Prince Philip. ▼

— Valerie Kuklinski, United Press International

Gered Up for Fatherhood?

Richard Gere says he's afraid his supermodel wife, Cindy Crawford, will "reluctantly withdraw from the relationship" unless he agrees to be a father. In an interview in the January edition of *Vanity Fair* magazine, the 44-year-old actor says he has nothing against paternity but he could "absolutely" live without kids. "Would I love to have kids with Cindy? Yes, I think that would be fabulous ... but I married Cindy, I didn't marry some future children I don't even know yet." Gere said his sex life is nobody's business and refused to comment on persistent rumors he is homosexual. "If you start to take a defensive mode and say, 'No, I'm not,' it gives credence to the idea that there's something wrong with it (homosexuality)," he said. "Cosmically, there is nothing wrong with being heterosexual, homosexual, or bisexual....My best friends in the world are gay, and I also have heterosexual friends. Why would I ever put myself in a category that would lay judgment on friends of mine?"

— Valerie Kuklinski, United Press International

Times Square Briefs:

The huge billboard in Manhattan's Times Square showing Marky Mark wearing Calvin Klein underwear underwent a transformation for 24 hours in December. Mark was replaced by actor Woody Harrelson for the filming of the final scene in the movie *The Cowboy Way*, in which Harrelson and Kiefer Sutherland play naive cowboys in bad old New York. In the scene, Harrelson wears cowboy hat and boots and Calvin Klein briefs. As Brian Grazer, who wrote and produced the film, explained, "The point of the poster is that Woody and Keifer's value systems have been in direct conflict with New York City's sophisticated value system. By the end of the movie we see that Woody himself has been corrupted in a comical way, and he'll sell his body on a billboard."

— Valerie Kuklinski, United Press International

Shopping

Katie

(Continued from page 17)

to pay for toiletries, robes, and slippers for people with AIDS in S.F. hospitals. This is not a frivolous charity — by way of comparison, these hospitals charge you around \$4 for a tiny tube of toothpaste!

Omar, the owner of Earth-tones, will show you some lovely small Polish boxes, hand-carved and painted. These are really charming. Larger Polish cut crystal bowls go for under \$100.

And speaking of crystals! Michelle, of Crystal Way on Market, says that Angel Cards are the ideal last minute gift for around \$8. They're small cards with affirmative words, like Joy, Patience, Whimsy, and Temperance, which you can pick and focus on, one a day. Of note: if you shop in Crystal Way, they'll give you a holiday gift of peacock ore, the stone of happiness.

My pick of stocking-stuffer sized gifts, though, comes from San Francisco Office Supply. Ken Broffman stocks French reproductions of fountain pens in 1950's designs (\$50) in a large selection of colors and styles; roller balls are \$35. French Waterman rollerballs are \$45, and the gorgeous fountain pens are \$65. Definitely a gift that will keep on giving, and Ken assures me he's got plenty of new pens coming in daily. My fave is the French reproduction fountain pen in gold-tones and rich brown.

Specialized gifts

For the hacker on your list, try Castro Computers. You can get Queers In History: A Database Disk of hundreds of historical personages, and a program to display them by name, profession, and birthplace (\$15.95). Or there's always the game disk, *Gay Blade*, a queer spoof on *Dungeons and Dragons*. Instead of dragons, you have drag queens who throw their purses at religious fundamentalists to scare them off!

Michael Bruno luggage is a must! Backpacks, handbags, travel clocks, small clocks perfectly suited to apartment life, beautiful picture frames. It's the perfect place to go to buy something for a friend who does a lot of traveling.

A stone's throw from the Castro, on Valencia, is Modern Times Books: the ideal bookstore for all the revolutionaries and deep thinkers on your Christmas list. Shopper's Tip: a membership card at Modern Times (\$25) entitles your giftee to a ten percent discount on all purchases for a year!

Finally, one of my favorite queer shops in the City is Macadam, the queer-friendly Macintosh Computer store on Folsom Street. A modem and trial membership to America Online makes a fab gift. Macadam gives respectable discounts for members of Digital Queers, and you can pick up membership information on the Gay Macintosh Users Group there as well.

Thrifty shopping tips

Carol was last-minute Christmas shopping, getting blank tapes; she's making gospel compilations for her friends.

Maya was in Headlines. "We're gonna be the two Jewish dykes at the Christmas party, and we're gonna bring cool Christmas ornaments." Orna-



The interior of Jeffrey Douglas' Rococoa Chocolates on Castro Street is almost as fabulous as the sweets (fudge freaks alert!) to be found there.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

ments are expensive, so Maya was buying little toys, and attaching strings to them to hang on the tree. She also says a pair of tix to the movie, *Adams Family Values*, would be a great, festive gift.

In Cliff's Hardware, I ran into Michelle shopping for a gift mug for her therapist. "You gotta look for one that fits your therapist. Ours is kinda flowery, so we're gonna get her something that's decorated with flowers."

Susan Nolan was buying an

appointment calendar filler for her Fil-o-fax in San Francisco Office Supply. "If you know people who really procrastinate, this is perfect." Hmmm, I may need to run back down to the Castro to pick up some more of those, myself!

So, Phew! That's it. I'm done. My feet hurt, and I've got to go wrap all this stuff. Happy Holidays, dear friends! Wishing you peace, comfort, strength, and wisdom for the coming year. ▼

Classifieds

LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 181721

The following person is doing business as SEMI SERVICES, 1450 Sutter #111, San Francisco, CA 94109: DAVID B. MCGUIRE, 1450 Sutter #111, San Francisco, CA 94109. Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date December 14, 1993. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed DAVID B. MCGUIRE.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on December 14, 1993.

December 23, 30 January 6, 13, 1993.

L-181721

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 181485

The following person is doing business as CAFE MONDA, 2032 Polk St., San Francisco, CA 94109: FRANK F. MONDA, 1411 Hyde St., San Francisco, CA 94109. Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed FRANK F. MONDA.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on December 7, 1993.

December 16, 23, 30 January 6, 1993.

L-181485

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 181829

The following person is doing business as MODERN FOLK, 511 Alvarado St., San Francisco, CA 94114: JAMES MATTHEW HAYWOOD, 511 Alvarado St., San Francisco, CA 94114; KATHLEEN MARIE GIRONARD, 110 Alma St., #4, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date December 17, 1993. This business is conducted by co-partners. Signed JAMES HAYWOOD.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on December 17, 1993.

December 23, 30 January 6, 13, 1993.

L-181829

Seasons Greetings

from The B.A.R.

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Classifieds

LEGAL NOTICES

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 956773

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of MARK JOHN GUARIGLIA for change of name. The application of MARK JOHN GUARIGLIA for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that MARK JOHN GUARIGLIA has filed an application proposing that HIS name be changed to MARK JOHN DIMAIO. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 10th day of January 1994 at 9 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 2nd day of December, 1993.

December 9, 16, 23, 30, 1993.
L-956773

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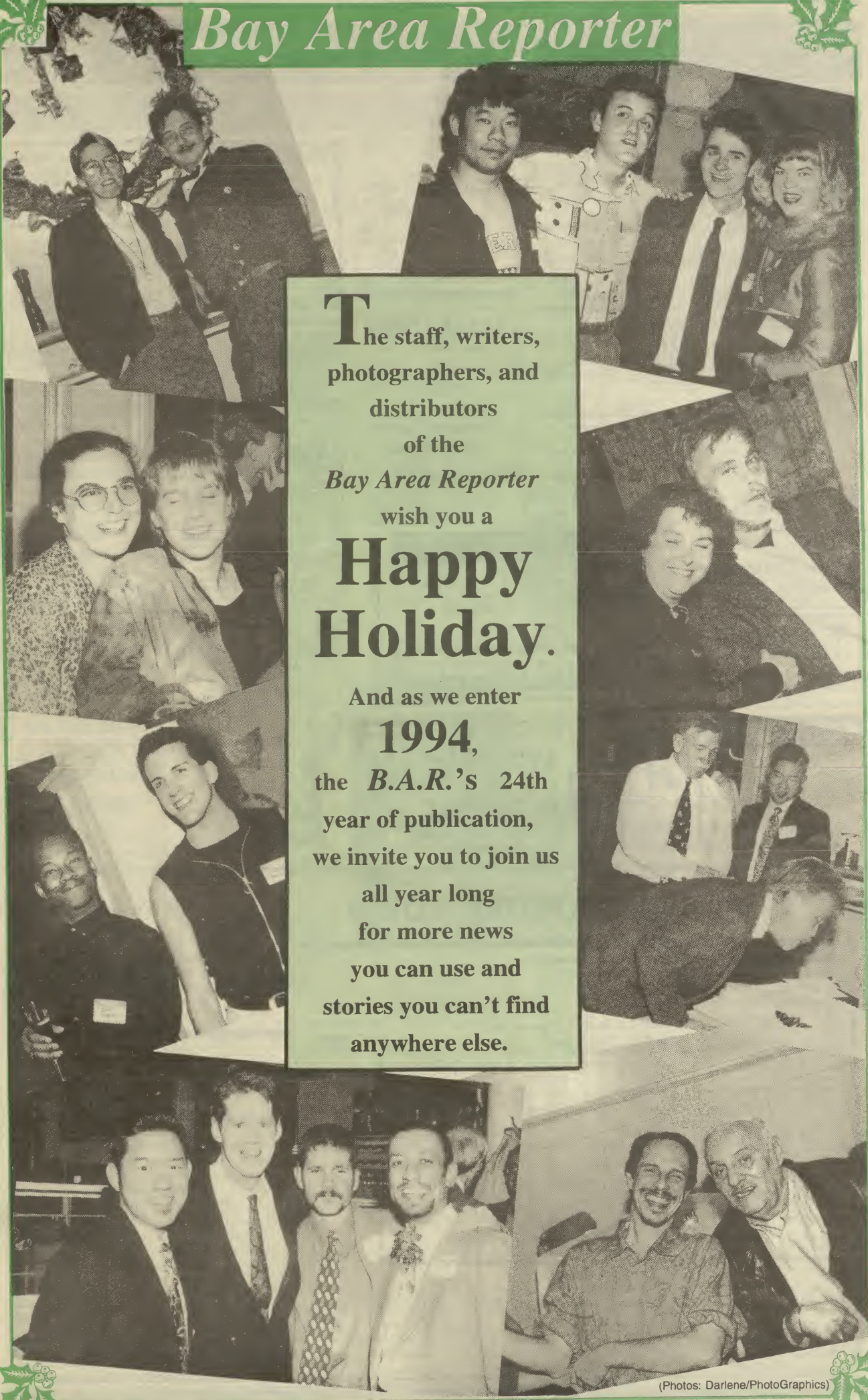
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John Guare's New York Story
Makes Strong Screen Debut

Making Connections

by Brandon Judell

The central event in Fred Schepisi's film, *Six Degrees of Separation*, John Guare's adaptation of his own hit play, is the entrance of Paul (Will Smith), a young black man, into the luxurious Central Park apartment of art dealer Flan (Donald Sutherland) and his wife, Ouisa (Stockard Channing), under false pretenses.

Paul claims he's a friend of their college-age children, that he's been stabbed and robbed by a mugger, and that his father is Sidney Poitier. All of his statements are false. He, in fact, stabbed himself. Paul then charms the couple and their South African guest (Ian McKellen) with his knowledge of art, their children, his culinary skills, and the promise to get them parts in

his father's next directorial effort, a film version of the musical *Cats*. Ouisa is so taken with Paul that she insists that he spend the night in their apartment.

The next morning, after pleasant dreams, Ouisa wakes

Will Smith's portrayal of a gay man is surprisingly free from stereotype.

up to loud moaning coming from Paul's room. She opens the door to discover a naked hustler copulating with Poitier Jr.



Donald Sutherland and Stockard Channing turn in bravura performances in MGM's *Six Degrees of Separation*.

The rest of *Six Degrees* is basically Ouisa's search for who, or what, Paul is. She knows he's not a Poitier and she knows he's unknown to her children. She also knows that he's pulled the same scam on several other well-to-do couples in her exclusive Fifth Avenue neighborhood. She wants to know what he's looking for? He didn't steal anything, except her trust, and a little peace of mind, which, she comes to discover, has been the only thing keeping the cold, cruel world from encroaching on her insular existence. The latter point

comes back to haunt Ouisa, who reads somewhere that everyone is just six people removed from every other person on earth, and, if that's the case, what six people led Paul to her and Flan?

Script Unsullied

Schepisi and Guare have deftly opened up the play. The original production was performed on a barren stage, which successfully focused attention on the play's intricate dialogue. In the film, all that endless chatter becomes a series of anecdotes told to friends at swanky New York

art gatherings and dinner parties. Fortunately, not a word of Guare's lush original script has been lost, an excellent artistic decision as the thrust of *Six Degrees* lies in its witty, urbane banter.

The loquacious character of Guare's play serves to announce its heady subject, which concerns life without imagination: it asks us how can murderers, or anyone else for that matter, utilize a classic like *Catcher in the Rye* to commit atrocities? Would prejudice towards blacks end if society dressed them all up

(Continued on page 37)



Davis Gaines and Lisa Vroman shake, rattle and roll in *Phantom of the Opera*. (Photo: Joan Marcus)

'The Phantom of the Opera'

Big Kitsch

John F. Karr

The big surprise about *Phantom of the Opera* is that I didn't really like it. But since you've waited seven years to see it, I'll keep my grouching short. I mean, as exercises in futility go, a negative review of *Phantom* is really like pissing in the wind. The second big surprise about *Phantom* is that it has a lesbian subplot. It's not mentioned during the course of the action, but wherever that grim ballet mistress goes, cute little ballerina Meg is by her side. There's Meg — maintaining a most strict fifth position — in places a chorine would never be permitted. It's a subplot that could definitely use exploration.

Although I've expressed admiration for *Phantom*'s score in print elsewhere, I discovered upon seeing the show at the Curran last week that it hardly possesses a score at all. Webber writes a hit tune for each character, and then no matter when they appear, or in whatever combinations, there's just new words for old tunes. Maybe he felt he hadn't

been paid enough and was holding out? Whatever, the effect proved stultifying.

And the music muffs some big moments, particularly the unmasking scene, which passes in a tangled confusion of arms. This moment has better music in Lon Chaney's silent film of the story, where the dumbshow lets you know exactly where the music is, and exactly how grand it is. All Webber had to do was fill in the blanks.

Similarly blank are numerous plot inconsistencies. Basically, the exposition is a shambles — the existence of the Phantom is explained by four quivering ballet girls, who squeal, "The Ghost! The Ghost!" Hissilhouette appears on the back curtain with such heavy-handed regularity that you want to laugh at the amateurishness.

And why, at a climactic moment in his first confrontation with Christine, does the Phantom reveal a mechanical doll in a wedding dress, prompting Christine to faint? Probably because if she were conscious, they'd have to keep

singing. As it is, the scene ends inconclusively.

Most of the performances seem calculated for a larger space than the Curran Theatre. Davis Gaines is in need of some restraint for his hammy, silly performance as the Phantom. Lisa Vroman, however, as Christine, has it all: the high notes, the coloratura, and the personal grace to make a touching believable character out of an airhead.

But above all, the show just isn't very involving. It takes itself so seriously, too, when, in the final analysis, it's just grand kitsch. There's little suspense, and little empathy engendered. Perhaps it's just that after seven years of Michael Crawford lip-synching tunes on TV commercials to sell his recordings, the dramatic effects have dissipated. The San Francisco *Phantom* is kind of like a fruitcake: pick out the parts you like, and push those numerous lumpy, indigestible things aside. ▼

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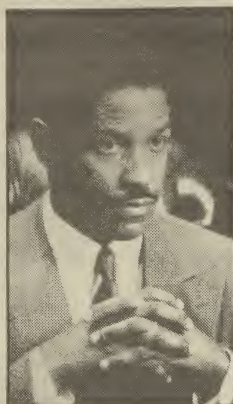
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OutThere

The Annals of Queerdom

by Orland Outland

In the January issue of *GQ*, Denzel Washington informs us that he was pleased to have played the straight guy in *Philadelphia*, because, "he's uncertain he could have played Hanks' role of a gay lawyer and kiss another man onscreen—because of the embarrassment to which it might have subjected his nine-year-old son in school." And, according to *Premiere*, *Six Degrees of Separation* star Will Smith called Washington for advice about playing a gay role. Washington told him, "Don't be kissing no man" onscreen. While the original *Separation* script called for "explicitly sexual scenes," *Premiere* euphemistically notes that the



Mr. Smith goes to Washington, and D.W. tells him, "Don't be kissing no man."

director "eventually shot around" these scenes. In English, that means the homoerotic scenes were removed from the script (have I heard this before, or is there an echo in here?). "I waited till they gave me my check to tell them I wasn't going to do what the script called for," Smith boasted. Well, he's certainly qualified to play a scam artist, isn't he?

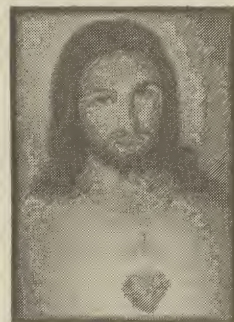
Rather than calling Washington, Smith should have called Antonio Banderas, whose gay role in *Philadelphia* isn't his first: Banderas told *Us* how, as a member of Spanish filmmaker Pedro Almodovar's stable of actors, he was called on to engage in a very wet kiss with a co-star. "I thought to myself, Oh my God. How disgusting." But when the very hetero Banderas went to do the kiss in rehearsal, he said, "It was ... so easy. I didn't lose my fingers, my ear didn't fall down. Nothing happens if you're sure of who you are." Yes, he said his ear didn't fall down; something obviously got lost in translation.

As you may recall, I made a number of phone calls to the White House recently to get President and Mrs. Clinton's opinion of *Philadelphia*, which was screened at their request last month, but received no answer. On December 1, the president did give a rave review to *Schindler's List*, now playing at the Kabuki. "I implore every one of you to see it," he said. Of course, *Philadelphia* doesn't open until January 14; could TriStar have asked the President, like other film critics, to hold his review?

Check out the January *Movieline*, not just for the splashy new layout, or my interview with *Grief* director Richard Glatzer, but to learn more about John Malkovich's new movie, which will be set in San Francisco and involves "a murder which, rumor has it, takes place in the gay community." Oh, surprise! Is there some kind of federal law that every movie with a homo in it has to include a murder? "The twist, sources say, comes when a witness to the murder is attacked by the murderer and loses his memory." Sounds like it's time to crank up the Out There Movie Math(TM) Machine: *Unnamed Gay Murder Movie* + *Jennifer 8* + *Silence of the*

Lambs + *Eyes of Laura Mars* - *Basic Instinct* - all decency and good taste? Also, check out the item on married celebs on page 8 and read between the lines. (No, I don't know who the people are in every blind item; stop asking me!)

Ask not why the 1994 *Alyson Gay/Lesbian Almanac* has a picture on the cover of a man, a woman, Capitol Hill, and a rhinoceros. Nor why the section on famous homosexuals includes novelist Patrick White but not novelist Edmund White, Arthur Sullivan of Gilbert & Sullivan but not *New Republic* editor Andrew Sullivan, or why it includes such dubious entries as St. Augustine, Anne Frank and Jesus Christ. The Almanac says that Gore Vidal's "wit and geniality have made him a popular and enduring celebrity." Vidal? Geniality? Hello?



J.C.: Does his heart belong to Daddy? Or Peter? or Paul?

KTVU Watch: An Eternally Ongoing Feature? The station's *Mornings on Two* show recently ran a number of gay-interest pieces, including one on the FBI and gays and Scott Capurro's role in *Mrs. Doubtfire*. Of course, when they showed Oakland A's stars rehearsing for a benefit production of *The Nutcracker* on the noon news, Ross McGowan felt it necessary to assure us that none of baseball's finest would be playing the Sugar



Madonna's object of affection, Antonio Banderas, is one het who's tackled gay roles and kept his ears erect.



The very genial Gore Vidal.

Plum Fairy — far be it for me to shout "homophobia" in a crowded theater, but was that a gratuitous comment or what?

I found myself in Fiend two weeks ago (at The Top bar on Haight every Saturday). If you wondered where all the groovy gay boys went after Club Uranus closed, here they are. The club features a dance floor, best described as an ambient mosh



John Malkovich's new flick reportedly features a homicide in our own S.F.

pit, where the purpose of pogoing is more to cop a feel than to engage in the aggressive activity usually found in said pits. The bar, especially the dance area, is not for the claustrophobic: my drink was knocked into my face by a happy dancer. But how can you complain when everyone around you seems to think getting splashed is as fun as doing the splashing? Should you go, wear sensible shoes and bring a lid and straw for your cocktail glass.

Speaking of Club Uranus, has it really been almost a year since the last Miss Uranus pageant? Will anybody dare to revive it again? Hottest T-shirt in LA: "I know Lestat. Lestat is a friend of mine. Tom Cruise is no Lestat." No kidding ...

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Theatre

George Coates' 'Box Conspiracy'

Virtual Theater

by Erin Blackwell

The title, *Box Conspiracy: An Interactive Sho* isn't one you can snuggle up to, like *Gone With the Wind*. But that was just a movie based on a book; this is a theatricalized photo shop. However, once ensconced in a cozy theater seat, wearing 3D glasses, and possibly even sucking your thumb, you can forget what you don't know about the latest technology and let the all-enveloping artifice of George Coates' genius lull your disbelief into suspension.

What you hear are live musicians playing up a storm and live actors belting out songs, when they're not muffling lines (so you know they're not lip-synching to a pre-recorded soundtrack), all of it miked and amplified so it all seems to be emanating from the same electronic source, just like the people inside your TV set.

What you see are sometimes really pretty images projected onto a scrim, images that seem to ooze out into space when seen through the 3D glasses you're handed along with your program. By the relatively primitive (or do I mean sophisticated?) magic of theater, performers standing behind the scrim, when lighted, appear to be inside the projected images. Strangely enough, their real-life bodies look flat compared to the

artificially induced relief of their projected surroundings.

In other words, *Box* is a study in sensory disorientation, and since it's pretty, rhythmic and whimsical, the audience is more than happy to be taken for a virtual theatrical ride. There was one complaint from a man in row M, who had arrived sleepy: the text was insufficiently dramatic to hold his attention. As far as he was concerned, nothing was happening.

A Virtue of Digression

The narrative is short on cause-and-effect and long on absurdity and word-play, but this rambling, extruded quality seems appropriate with the open-ended "interactive" universe the piece posits. And there is a dramatic line, only it advances by fits and starts, making a virtue of digression. Like a local, making all the stops. In fact, the ideal spectators for this show aren't so much in a hurry to get where they are going as they are bemused to sit and stare out the window at the scenery.

Emerald O'Leary plays a shut-in (who calls herself an "indoor enthusiast") who becomes addicted to a 5000-channel TV that doubles as a marketing-research tool. When we're not watching her, we watch what she watches: some very arch, nihilistic takes on our media-saturated culture's horrified fascination

with violence and crime. Sometimes what she's watching spills out onto the stage, or gets delivered to her door via the interactive home-shopping channel. This mindless agoraphobe is the ultimate in female consumerism. She wants it all, now, without an inkling of the larger picture, without an ethical or moral dilemma to get in the way of her bottomless materialism.

To complement this archaic (dare I say misogynist?) Wife icon is the bumbling Everyman, played with masterful ineptitude by Tim Wiggins. He's got brains; he's an inventor; he sees the future and would like to try and modify it. He's even got The Answer: a personal digital organizer, which allows Chance back into otherwise overly scheduled lives.

The couple's adventures bump along in the seemingly random manner of an interactive story, except the audience never gets to choose between possible alternatives. Dramatic necessity, or Fate — what might've kept that man in row M awake — has here been replaced by the Unseen Hand that clicks the cosmic mouse. Technology is here the force to be reckoned with: oracles, chorus and furies all rolled into one. Deus ex Machina, even, as a character (the show's token third-worlder) killed by that horrible woman, is brought back to life before the curtain call.

It's no mean feat to create an evening of such aesthetic pleasure, to be able to wax whimsical about computer technology even while exploring the theatrical side of pas-



Sensory disorientation: *Box Conspiracy: An Interactive Sho*.

sive appetite, to design a theatrical role for invasive media that gives the spectator perspective on this otherwise overwhelming cultural phenomenon. If Coates would just shake up his sex roles a bit (not to mention his racial

stereotypes), there'd be no carping from this corner. ▼

Editor's Note: *Box* can be seen throughout January at Performance Works, 110 McAllister St. Call 863-8520 for information.

Theatre

The Evolution of Gay Comic Scott Capurro

Global Connection

by Chad Jones

In his one-man show at Josie's Cabaret last week, Scott Capurro evolved from an intelligent, entertaining gay comic into a writer and performer of depth, emotion and dark hilarity. In the three years he has been seriously pursuing a career as a comic, Capurro has translated his success with Josie's audiences into a career as a pioneering, openly gay comic who crisscrosses the country performing in mainstream, straight clubs. The inherent danger of this seemingly insane career spawned the title for Capurro's show, *Risk-Gay*.

His life as a gay comic in a very straight comedy world may present risks, but none of them could be greater than the risk Capurro takes in this, his first one-man show. Relying heavily on autobiography, Capurro reveals his personal history, his emotions and the dark sources of his edgy humor in ways he never has before. As a performer and writer, he puts himself way out there, connecting the comic with the highly personal. He needn't worry about falling, though, because the audience is with him every step of the way.

Capurro is simply a master at carrying an audience. He reads them and responds. He's authoritative without being manipulative, which perfectly suits the intricate blend



Scott Capurro

of comedy and drama he presents in *Risk-Gay*. He begins the show by announcing that he doesn't have time to do the show because, all of a sudden, he's a hot commodity. Producers in LA have seen the show and want him there immediately. While packing his trunk of props, he spins the history that brought him to this newfound brink of success.

Dysfunctional Drama

Laced with hearty doses of hilarity along the way, Capurro's history is really far from funny. The way he describes his family and his childhood in the suburbs (Daly City and San Rafael), you'd think his was the most dysfunctional upbringing in history. Alcoholism, divorce, insanity and the '70s all played major roles in the drama of his childhood. While

(Continued on page 40)

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Will Smith Plays More Than One Con Game in New Film

Six Degrees of Aggravation

by Brandon Judell

It's a typical New York Tuesday. The weather is brisk, the Christmas trees are up, and shoppers' arms are full of gifts, 10 percent of which, according to a recent survey, the gifties won't want. It's a perfect setting to discuss the quintessential New York movie, *Six Degrees of Separation*, which director Fred Schepisi brings to the screen after several years of international critical success on the stage.

If you missed the tabloid accounts that heralded the coming of John Guare's play, the hit production at Lincoln Center, or last year's touring version with Marlo Thomas, then you may not know that *Six Degrees of Separation* is based on the true story of a young man who gained access to the homes of Manhattan's elite by convincing them he was the son of Sidney Poitier. In the play, the charming scam artist, Paul, offers his victims bit parts in his father's forthcoming project, a film version of the musical, *Cats*. They bite the bait.

As the play unfolds, we learn that Paul began his life in crime as a street-wise gay hustler who's picked up by Trent, a white gay boy who teaches him how to speak "rich" and gain access to his friends' parents' exclusive

homes. In some respects, the story is a revisiting of *Pygmalion*, only set in late 20th century New York, with all its complexities, anxieties and ambiguities.

Not surprisingly, some of these rich ambiguities are being echoed in real-life events behind-the-scenes of *Six De-*

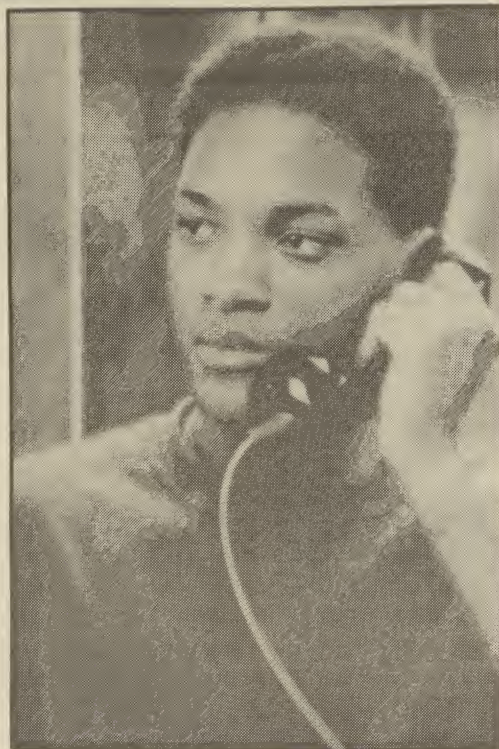
show, *Fresh Prince of Bel Air*. But the skeptical among us couldn't help but think his absence had something to do with the controversy brewing around the straight actor's reported problems with playing a gay man. In the film, Smith is supposed to kiss Trent (Anthony Michael Hall) on the lips, something the actor said he refused to — and clearly doesn't — do in the film. What seemed a sticky problem got stickier when Smith told *Premiere* magazine that upon finding out that his character was gay, "he called Denzel Washington" for advice on what to do. According to *Premiere*, Washington told Smith, "You can act all you want, but don't do any physical scenes — don't be kissing no man."

When queried on the matter at the press junket, Smith's fellow cast members, and the play's writer and director, attempted to squash an obviously embarrassing issue. Playwright John Guare said the kissing scene would've been shot the way it was regardless of Will Smith's reservations about kissing Hall, that it was simply Fred Schepisi's way of directing the scene. But Schepisi, somewhat sheepishly, admitted that the scene had to be shot according to Smith's plan, not his own. The follow-

"I think that as an actor, part of your job is to play roles that may not reflect your own life interests or ideas."

—Donald Skuggs

ing are excerpts from the press conference:



Will Smith: "Hello, Denzel, what should I do?"

★ ★ ★

Donald Sutherland: The information of my character is put together in my heart, in my soul, in my testicles, and that character lives in me. Sadly, Will Smith, who plays Paul, doesn't have the same philosophy. After signing up for the gay role, he started having bouts of homophobia.

Stockard Channing: I wasn't there that day. I actually had a day off. I know Will's given interviews and this and that. I think that's something that he should speak about, not me.

B.A.R.: (To Channing) You have a very big gay following. The gay community embraces you. If there was any truth to this Will Smith story, would you be shocked or upset?

Channing: I have to say we're actors, and it's very hard for me to speak about something that I think again is Will's thing. I don't want to speak very much about it. You play the part and do what the part requires. That's my credo. Yes, my feelings about straight and gay are pretty well known. I probably would have had the same reaction as you, but I don't really want to speak about it.

John Guare: I'll tell you something. It's not a rumor. When we met him for the part, I said, "What? A TV star? This is going to be trouble," and he said, "I'm in this for the long run. I want to be an actor. I am an actor and this is the only way I'm going to grow." That took courage. He can now say whatever he wants — his performance is there on the screen and it speaks for itself. I think it was really courageous for him to challenge his audience.

B.A.R.: If I had not heard this story about Smith, I

would have thought, "Wow, this is a great pro-gay performance. But once you hear the story, you see the film differently? You see how the kiss had to be shot."

Guare: Fred Schepisi is a really powerful director and a really powerful human being, and if he had Quentin Crisp in the scene, he would have shot it the same way.

Fred Schepisi: I think it was Truffaut who said that good directors are businessmen in the morning and artists in the afternoon. There is a certain amount of truth to that. You've got to be practical. As for Will, he agreed to do that [kiss] and then, with his young hetero blood pulsing through his brains, as the event got closer, it made him a bit nervous. But I think it was actually more embarrassment. I think also some friends of his, and other members of his community, were putting pressure on him, rather wrongly, of course. I find it always in a large sense, particularly with younger people, that you think it's always going to be very easy, and then as you get nearer the event, they try to find a way out of doing certain things. They suddenly realize that they're very vulnerable in front of a large group of people.

B.A.R.: Was the scene filmed as you originally conceived it?

Schepisi: Yeah, not exactly. I was going to do a slightly different number, but the way I look at films you come across things and you think you know...The scene has the impact that I believe it should have, and it looks fine.

★ ★ ★

And the scene is fine if you don't know what occurred on the set. As the camera approaches the back of

(Continued on next page)



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Film Clips

Carville's Star Quality

Political guru James Carville displays real star quality in *The War Room*, an alternately fascinating and disturbing documentary that follows the behind-the-scenes strategists who ran Bill Clinton's presidential campaign. It's fascinating to see Carville, George Stephanopoulos and others maneuver around the crises — from Gennifer Flowers to Clinton's draft record — that stalked their candidate. Disturbing is the reminder of just how shallow the process of electing our leader is, no matter how much the participants profess a desire to "stick to the issues." The ever-pithy Carville ("Bush reeks of yesterday"; "that [Perot's campaign] was the single most expensive act of masturbation in the history of politics") keeps the picture crackling, though anyone who's worked on a campaign may suspect that the choicest moments took place off-camera.

At *Opera Plaza* (771-0183); opens Dec. 29.

★ ★ ★

'Tournee' Worth a Peek

More so than live-action cinema, animation is a craft-driven enterprise. It takes a certain type to endure the rigors of frame-by-frame creation — by hand or computer — and not all of those who can have anything to say. Which is why animation festivals tend to be heavy on razzmatazz and short on substance (just like political campaigns). The 24th International Tournee of Animation has its share of the cutesy, but several entries — most notably Marjut Rimminen and Christine Roche's *The Stain* — make it worth a peek. *The Stain* intercuts two versions of the same tale about a severely dysfunctional family. Rimminen and Roche combine several animation styles to create a visually rich and emotionally intricate work of art.

At the *Castro* (621-6120), Dec. 26-Jan. 6.

★ ★ ★

Doggie Ex Machina

You have to credit any film that opens with a discussion of the Bowers vs. Hardwick sodomy case. The gay interest in *The Pelican Brief* unfortunately peters out moments later, when someone deep-sixes two Supreme Court justices. Ultra-bright law student Julia Roberts uncovers the conspiracy, but nearly everyone who reads her brief ends up dead. Director Alan J. Pakula has a fine visual sense, but his pacing is lethargic and some of the acting (especially Robert Culp's) atrocious. Throughout *Pelican Brief*, Julia and Denzel Washington have been rightfully paranoid, but the two suddenly become oblivious to their pursuers just as the duo is about to score key pieces of evidence. A "doggie ex machina" toward the end highlights the scenario's flimsiness, but those who don't let logic intrude will likely find the goings-on gripping enough.

At the *Galaxy* (474-8700).

—Daniel Mangin

Film

Six

(Continued from page 33)

in preppy outfits and changed their last names to Poitier? And are we turning our lives into amusing anecdotes so that we don't have to face the unvarnished truth? Guare doesn't attempt to answer any of the questions he poses — and neither, thankfully, does Schepisi — but he does paint a rich portrait of late 20th century life in New York, where, "like Florence in the Renaissance, there's genius on every

How Rick reacts to the discovery that he enjoys anal sex is a bit hard to believe.

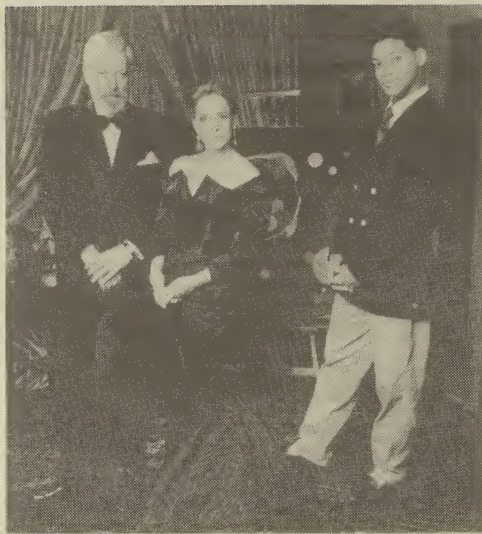
corner" and the boundaries between things like love, death, honesty, dishonesty, gay, straight, rich and poor are deceptively blurred.

Viewed from a gay point of view, the work is amazingly positive. Will Smith's three-dimensional homosexual characterization is free from stereotype. He dances outrageously with another man in the posh Rainbow Room, he fights loneliness with a hunky hustler (better played by David Eigenberg on stage), and before his *My Fair Lady* transformation, he's even a convincing prostitute willing to trade his body parts for a path out of poverty. His positive portrayal is somewhat surprising considering the controversy surrounding his reported refusal to kiss another man on the lips. But that's another story.

Also positive is Anthony Michael Hall's Trent, the scared gay collegian who picks up Paul, falls in love with him, and then lets himself be turned into a Henry Higgins so that he can both get closer to Paul and foist revenge on a society that won't accept him because he's gay.



Playwright John Guare



Separate but together: Donald Sutherland, Stockard Channing and Will Smith in John Guare's *Six Degrees of Separation*.

Hard Sell

The only problematic character in the film is Rick (Eric Thal). He's a "straight" boy from Utah who comes to New York City with his girlfriend to be an actor. Paul seduces him, introducing him to anal sex in a horse-drawn carriage in Central Park, and runs away with his money. How Rick reacts to the discovery that he enjoys anal sex is a bit hard to believe, but the way the film is structured, it's easy to overlook.

That caveat aside, there's much to admire in *Six De-*

grees, Schepisi's clever direction, Tom Monich's careful dialogue coaching and the bravura performances of Stockard Channing and Donald Sutherland. Above all, Guare's writing is simply fantastic. Supporting performances by Ian McKellen, Bruce Davison and Heather Graham are also noteworthy.

In case you didn't already know it, *Six Degrees* is based on a true story, but since everyone involved with this flick wants to play that point down, we might as well too. ▼

Smith

(Continued from page 36)

Anthony Michael Hall's head, you see Smith approaching Hall, to kiss him. But when the kiss happens, you never see lips touch — only the back of Hall's head.

Should gay and lesbian viewers be upset by tactics like this? Some would argue that it's a small matter, but since everyone involved with *Six Degrees*, except Will Smith, is openly — verbally — pro-gay, it's more than a little troubling. A final word from GLAAD, may set the record straight, so to speak:

Donald Skuggs: (spokesperson for the New York chapter of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) "About Smith's decision, it's repugnant to me. I think that as an actor, part of your job is to play roles that may not reflect your own life interests or ideas. That's an actor's craft, to be able to do that...to be able to do that effectively. I think that if every lesbian and gay actor weren't willing to take on roles where they might have to kiss a heterosexual, they wouldn't have any work." ▼

Editor's Note: *Six Degrees of Separation* opens Dec. 23 at Kabuki Theatres.

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Musical Stocking Stuffers

by Philip Campbell

Feeling a little pressed for last-minute gift ideas? Compact discs can be as much fun to give as receive. Besides, they're affordable and easy to wrap.

If your friends have tastes that run the gamut, from classical to pop, here are some suggestions for that audiophile close to your heart.

Robert Craft/The Orchestra of St. Luke's *Stravinsky, The Composer, Volumes IV and V Music Masters Classics*

These latest installments, in a massive undertaking that will eventually cover all of Stravinsky's vast output, are particularly impressive. Volume IV is a delightful selection from the master's neo-classical period and his spare, elegant later years. The dance

pieces, *Agon*, and *Scenes de Ballet*, are surrounded by a piquant arrangement for male voices of *The Star Spangled Banner* and Bach's *Von Himmel Hoch* for orchestra and chorus. Dumbarton Oaks Concerto, using chamber forces, is easy to find on other recordings, but receives a fine performance here. Several other brief rarities fill out an altogether entrancing edition.

Volume V features the one-act burlesque *Renard*,



and *Concerto for Two Pianos*. These marvelous miniatures make this a most attractive compilation. Robert Craft's artistic collaboration with Stravinsky spanned decades and, fittingly, he adheres closely to the composer's refusal to overstate the music.

Seattle Symphony *Diamond, Symphonic Works, Volume III Delos*

Another ambitious series that has earned universal praise is devoted to American composer David Diamond. His melodic, tonal and accessible music kept him hidden in his Juilliard teaching post for years, while trendier modernists taught the world how to alienate audiences. Now, conductor Gerard Schwarz brings the wonderful music of this American Romantic to an enthusiastic public (previous releases have hit the Billboard charts).

Volume III includes the compact, exuberant Symphony No. 1 and the Violin Concerto No. 2, which rivals the more famous American exercise in the genre by Samuel Barber.

Tony Bennett *Steppin' Out Columbia*

Sinatra's favorite singer is getting on in years, but even if his voice is showing signs of wear, there's no dearth of energy or warmth. This collection, dedicated to songs associated with Fred Astaire, is a gem.

Bennett's range may be somewhat frayed at the top and bottom, but he turns it to his advantage. The medley, *Shall We Dance*, is guaranteed to raise a smile. The wistful perspective of maturity makes the love songs especially sweet. It's perfect listening for New Year's Eve.

Barbara Cook *Close As Pages In a Book DRG*

Another old trouper, legendary for her Broadway

roles, doesn't share the vocal strain that has begun to afflict Bennett. In fact, her voice, mysteriously, bears no signs of aging.

Soaring through a lovely selection of songs with lyrics by the great Dorothy Fields and music by writers from Sigmund Romberg to Cy Coleman, Cook weaves an enchanting spell that is helped by deft arrangements from long-time accompanist Wally Harper, Michael Gibson and Peter Matz. This is a feel good record that will thrill old fans and attract new ones.

Original Broadway Cast *I Can Get It For You Wholesale Columbia*

If Barbara Cook has a trademark Broadway sound, try returning to the cast album that brought the other Barbara to the Great White Way.

Streisand makes such an impressive debut on this newly-remastered disc, that one almost ignores the large and talented cast surrounding her. But don't, lest you miss the acid power of Harold Rome's impressive score. By the time the finale arrives, you will realize how timid most shows of today are by comparison.

Andrew Lloyd Webber *Sunset Blvd. Polydor*

Not since *Evita* has a plot been more ideally suited to this composer's over-the-top brand of kitsch. This is some of the composer's best work. From the grand strains of the haunting prelude, to the gloriously campy finale — *The Greatest Star of All* — this is a score that grabs you and won't let go. Patti LuPone is a mesmerizing Norma Desmond and Kevin Anderson makes a fine Joe Gillis. The show will probably be recorded again with the new American cast, but even though Glenn Close is a fine singing actress, it's going to be hard to surpass this rather stunning production. ▼

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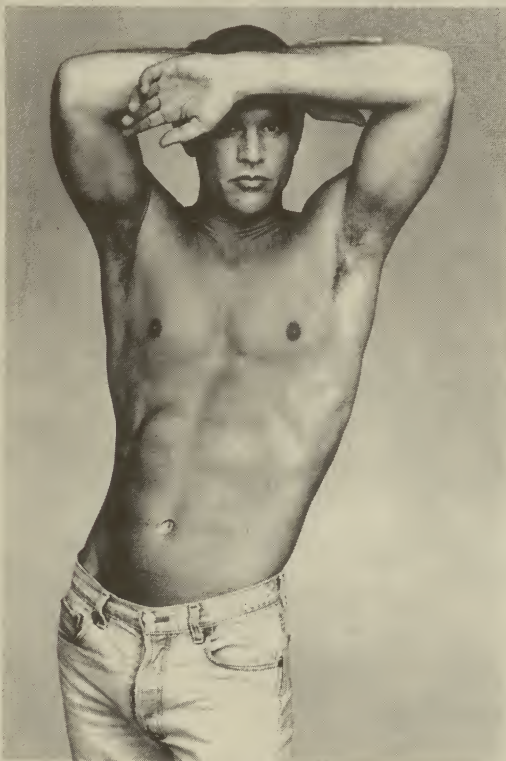
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Deck the Halls with Balls and Spandex

by Steve Greenberg

If you still haven't bought a Christmas gift for your special pal, significant other, favorite trick, or that possibly queer girl or boy next door you'd like to get to know better, why not give the gift of underwear? "When you give underwear for Christmas, you're giving yourself a present too," says the bubbly Cerise, who presides over a butt-boggling array of slinky and sexy undies at Undercover on Castro St. Her hot ticket this season is a line of underwear designed by Raymond Dragon, a Colt model and porn star. (Finally, an underwear designer with relevant experience!)

Speaking of experience, in an appropriate location just behind the cash register is a wall of polaroids of near-naked celebrity customers (gold stars indicate porn stars according to Cerise), including quite a few sex-workers, ho, ho, ho! So, if you've got any young professionals on your gift list this year, point the sleigh towards the Castro and pay Cerise a visit. From a \$5 jock strap to way-hot shorts with gussets for that ever-important crotch emphasis at \$32, there's something for everyone.

For those with more discreet taste, may we suggest good old reliable Macy's, where you'll find, along with the usual Calvin Klein selection (\$9 to \$17 for the "high fashion line"; \$14-\$35 for the "athletic" line), boxed glow-in-the-dark Santa pants (\$6.50) and Flintstone boxers (\$24). There's even a pair featuring Dino. Now isn't that cute?

If you're on a tight budget — and who isn't these days — you may want to stop in at Ross. Here, you'll find Chere-skin tattoo print bikinis for a low \$3.99 a pair, or a six-pack of Everlast briefs at \$9.99. Ross also carries cartoon-print boxers, similar to Macy's, a real steal at \$11.99. But while nobody's going to know just how low you go to save on presents, you're simply not going to get a feeling of holiday cheer in the rather dismal recesses of Ross' basement. You'll walk out with extra dough, but a noticeable deficit in spirit.

While you're lurking about the Union Square area in search of underwear, don't forget to drop in at Neiman-Marcus, not for the disappointing selection of undies, but for the tree in the main entrance. Even the most hard-as-diamond scrooges will be moved. Then head down the street



Model Daniel Luis wears undies by Doze Clothes.

(Photo: Marc Geller)

to Crocker Galleria and the month-old BoxerBay store, which comes to us via the land of grunge and caffeine, Seattle. This is where one's quest for boxer shorts will end. Ranging from \$15 to \$35 dollars, there's a virtual bevy of boxers here, including BoxerBay's own label in addition to Joe Boxer, Calvin

Klein, Ralph Lauren and Goodnight, one of those new upstart brands. The cheerful and helpful Acy happily tells us that "Boxers with a happy condom pouch are selling quickly." And that brings a smile to our lips for sure.

Whether you find the perfect pair or not, we suggest you end your trek in style at

the house of Armani, where a simple, unaffected little white brief will set you back \$30. Somehow, sitting in that magnificent store, sipping a cappuccino at the coffee bar, and imagining the wonderful look on your beloved's butt on Christmas morning, this mad season will somehow make sense. ▼

Books

Scant Space for Queers

A Century of Women Cartoonists, by Trina Robbins. Kitchen Sink Press, 1993. 180 pp. Hard cover, \$24.95, paper \$16.95.

by Angela Bocage

Trina Robbins' recently published book, *A Century of Women Cartoonists*, is fascinating reading for anyone whose interest in comics exceeds casual perusal. The book is full of beautiful, spirited artworks that speak eloquently of the eras that gave rise to them. But should you get it for your favorite *Dykes to Watch Out For* fan? Only, perhaps, if you consider the strips alone worth the price. People most interested in the subject may find themselves frustrated with Robbins' commentary.

There are many drawbacks to the text, not the least of which is Robbins' authorship. As author she's hardly in the position to do justice to her own impact as artist, editor, gadfly or role model — she's unable to provide the distanced analysis her art and writing deserve.

Robbins is, herself, something of a legend. In counter-cultural days, when the "underground comix" movement romped over cartoondom's status quo, she was doing funny, sexy, and unique stories that might include hard-boiled detectives who were glamorous girls, or the literally doxy Cinderella-figure — "Sinsemella." But no matter how adventurous or creative her ideas were, the Big Boys never accepted her in venues

like Zap.

Though she was derided for her tireless advocacy of a woman's perspective in her work, Robbins persevered. She went on to co-found the still-functioning Wimmin's Comix collective, created upbeat comics aimed at young teen girls, continued to write and illustrate, and edited benefit anthologies for mainstream AIDS and pro-choice groups. Today, she writes the comic book for that gay icon, Barbie (where her attempts to interject feminist consciousness and AIDS sensitivity get shot down by Mattel).

Editor Held Prisoner

One of the problems Robbins' book attempts to address is the lack of attention paid to women by the straight white male powers-that-be in the comics' industry. But, ironically, a close look at this book reveals that its publishers, Kitchen Sink Press, didn't take these concerns to heart. Their ad copy and catalogue blurbs misspell the names and strip titles of women contributors and hint that het boys will find s-e-x between its pages.

The book focuses primarily on the early 20th century, before a recession hit the comics industry in the '50s and forced most publishers — and most women cartoonists — out of business. Nevertheless, when the author finally

(Continued on page 40)

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Books

A CENTURY OF WOMEN CARTOONISTS



BY TRINA ROBBINS

Comics

(Continued from page 39)

reaches the middle-to-late 20th century, she makes some bizarre choices in her survey, calling into question earlier critical pronouncements.

Marie Severin, for example, may be a lovely person, but artistically she's a commercial worker, doing a commercial job at Marvel, like her male relatives before her. Yet several pages of this book are devoted to her work. Other Marvel artists, and friends of Robbins, are similarly presented, while altogether too many truly influential, original artists are either forgotten, like Diane DiMassa, or dismissed out right, like Dori Seda. Robbins' comment that only "her (Seda's) untimely death turned her into a cult favorite in the world of underground comics" is an outrageous insult to Seda's pioneering, urban bad-girl work.

Other important artists are all but ignored. One would never guess, for instance, how crucial Krystine Kryttre and Sabrina Jones have been to blurring the boundaries between comics and fine art, or Julie Doucet to in-your-face sexual honesty. Robbins prefers to devote her space to snapshots from mainstream comics' conventions. Hello? Was anyone editing this book? Was Dave Schreiner,

the book's editor, abducted by aliens?

Queer-friendly?

While much has been made of the fact that a few queers are mentioned in *A Century of Women Cartoonists*, many of our favorite strips and artists are non-events and nonpersons, *Hot-head Paisan*, Terry Sapp's *Baby Dyke*, Leanne Franson's popular baby bi-dyke *Liliane*, artists Julie Franki, Roxxie, Michelle Rau and others. Indeed, the whole 'zine thang' that got so many queer girls cartooning is simply overlooked.

Robbins, who has contributed to *Gay Comix* as a straight woman, clearly means well with this book. When Lynn Johnston's strips in the "Lawrence" series, which followed a gay teen's coming out, were published, Robbins managed to include several at the last minute, along with intelligently acerbic commentary on some editors' negative response. But this action doesn't excuse the book's other faults. It's disturbing, too, that while there was reliable information about the love relationship between two of Robbins' early-years cartoonist mentors, the book is silent about their relationship. Is this knowledge of love between two women so damning, even years after their deaths? A young queer cartoonist somewhere, girl or boy, would want to know. ▼

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Capurro

(Continued from page 35)

the humor bubbles through Capurro's tales, the pain and all other related emotional injuries are never far below the frothy surface. Several times in the show, Capurro eases away from the comedy and allows the emotional power of his story to take center stage. His description of touching a man for the first time stops being funny when the aching adolescence of a young gay man who's discovering another man becomes the focus. It's only the first of several such moments that Capurro, as writer and actor, allows to happen.

While taking us through his evolution as a comic, Capurro has never been funnier.

We see him as a closeted comic in LA telling terrible girlfriend jokes and, ultimately, as a polished professional forcing a straight audience to respond to his openly gay humor. It's a bit like "Scott Capurro's Greatest Hits," but expertly presented in the dramatic, forward-moving context of the show.

The success of any one-person show depends on the performer's ability to connect in some global way with the human experience. In *Risk-Gay*, Capurro has made just such a connection. *Risk-Gay* is so much more than comedy, and Scott Capurro proves himself to be so much more than a comic. There's an uplift at the end of the show that can only mean Capurro's history is far from over. In fact, it may be just beginning. ▼

BAY AREA REPORTER SPORTS AND FITNESS

Gay Games

New York Gay Games in 1994

To Go Or Not To Go?

by Angela Bocage

How many local athletes are going to the 1994 New York Gay Games? Since the registration deadline is December 31, the Bay Area Reporter investigated.

An unscientific poll of local sports enthusiasts shows that whether or not a team, or its members, plans to attend the Gay Games in New York City depends on factors beyond the court, field, pool, or boxing ring.

The San Francisco Different Spokes, one of the larger lesbian and gay athletic organizations and the sponsors of the AIDS Bike-a-thon, recently held an informational meeting about the Gay Games, at which the response was enthusiastic, according to Different Spokes Outreach Committee co-chair Derek Liecny. The participants from Different Spokes will be on their own financially, although some, as members of Team San Francisco, will participate in fundraising activities. Team San Francisco, an umbrella organization with members from many different sporting activities, has been holding fundraisers to raise money to help send members to the Games, and are also buying group discounts on plane fares and hotel fares.

Jim Frazier, of the San Francisco Wrestling Club, isn't going to the Games, because "Our club is on hiatus

right now; we don't have a regular space." But San Francisco will be represented in wrestling in the Games, he says, by the Golden Gate Wrestling Club.

Sense of history

For the Tsunami Swim Masters' Suzanne Frank, the decision to go was influenced by the relative logistical ease of a going to a U.S. location — one where Frank has friends she can stay with. The historical element came in for Frank as well; "I've never been in New York for Pride Week, and this is also the anniversary of Stonewall, so a lot of other activities are planned." Several of her teammates, also planning to go, have already begun their training. She speculates that her teammates share the sense of making history that you can get from participating in such a large lesbian and gay sporting event, and also the sense of having fun. "Because it's a gay competition, that makes it fun. Tsunami is a member of ILGA, the International Lesbian and Gay Aquatics Association which also includes water polo, so there are some other gay events. We also compete at Masters events, which aren't gay or straight but everybody."

Jay, the contact person for Gay Volleyball Every Sunday, is not going to New York. The reason he gave for not going also comes under the 'fun' heading: "We're just

playing for fun. It's not organized that way; we didn't want to be doing that kind of thing. It's just to have fun on Sundays."

For the more competitive local volleyballers, other problems arose, according to club

(Continued on next page)



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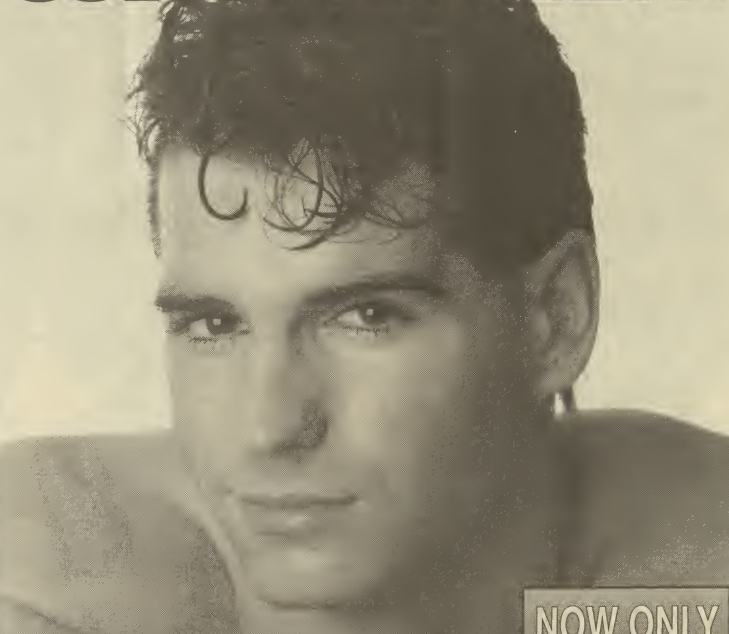
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Gay Games

(Continued from previous page)

volleyball organizer Mike Bulawit. "The volleyball club has quite a few teams, and some are going from San Francisco, but the particular team I'm on is not going. The reasons are the cost, and that there have been problems with the dates for volleyball changing," Bulawit added that the New York Gay Games organizers seemed to have a problem getting gyms. He said, "We're hearing there's some conflict with basketball scheduling for gyms, and the schedule has been changed so that the volleyball days are extended. Nothing seems set. What with traveling, getting a place to stay, it's a problem, and I know of other teams who aren't going for the same reasons."

High cost for teams

While many others involved in team sports like soccer, basketball, and softball are planning on going, there aren't as many Bay Area teams signed up now as the numbers of teams who attended the Vancouver 1990 Gay Games, according to some local sports organizers. Many simply drove up from the Bay Area to Vancouver for the 1990 Gay Games, but the driving time necessary for the coast to coast drive to New York will prevent many from having enough time off from work to drive out.

"The Games could end up being financially exclusive," said a woman who was struggling to organize a Bay Area lesbian soccer team together for the Games. She continued, "One of my friends gave up on the idea of going, but she knew I was still so set on going she signed me up to play on a Seattle team, via a

computer bulletin board." Since many team sports will have as many as 18 players on their rosters, the cost of sending an entire team to the New York Gay Games may be a prohibitive factor. The early deadline of December 31 has also made it difficult to arrange vacation schedules. Many people are reluctant to make a commitment now for a tournament in June.



The soccer dilemma

For soccer players, there is another element: the Games have been scheduled to coincide with the first ever United States hosted World Cup. World Cup ticket sales started last spring, so many players who are also devoted soccer fans, have already bought their World Cup tickets. Since it isn't likely the World Cup will ever return to the United States, many soccer players are torn between attending the World Cup for the best soccer they may ever see in the United States, or playing in the Gay Games.

Go for the fun

Many are simply looking forward to their New York adventure. Lois Allen of the Bay Area Distance Runners estimates roughly 50 percent of the group is New York-bound, about 35 marathoners in all. "A number of us went

last time and had such a wonderful time, they want to repeat the experience, and for others, it's the first time, and what they've heard has them really excited. It was a fantastic experience!" If half are going, it means the other half is staying, but Allen says there's no single reason, just "the usual: finances, scheduling, or they don't like New York."

Games in exile

Another reason emerges in conversation with Greg Varney of the San Francisco Boxing Club: "The people in New York, how can I put this — they're just not very educated about all sports," Varney explained that although boxing is what bankrolls the Olympics, boxing has been excluded from the Gay Games. The Games have grown to include many traditional sports and even things like sport climbing, they don't even have a boxing category, "even after our repeated attempts to clarify to them what boxing's all about. But with or without the Gay Games, there's going to be boxing in San Francisco. People come from all over, Canada, Southern California, Washington state and Washington D.C., all around the U.S. and the world to box here; there's going to be a tournament here coinciding with the Games," Varney added, "Whether people like it or not, boxing's going on as a sport." Despite the exclusion of boxing in the 1994 New York Gay Games, the local boxing organizers have handled the matter with a sense of humor. Their alternative boxing tournament has become known as the "Games in Exile." ▼

Sports Guide

Basketball

San Francisco Slammers women's basketball team. Call Susan at 648-4931.

Men's Basketball — call Tony at 621-2710.

Bicycling

Different Spokes Bicycle Club — Noncompetitive cycling, men/women, road/mountain bikes. Rides each weekend, plus regular 'Decide and Ride' each Sunday at 10 a.m., McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park. For schedule or newsletter, please call (415) 282-1647 or write POBox 14711, San Francisco, CA 94114.

Boating

Barbary Coast Boating Club — gay boat owners and enthusiasts meet the 3rd Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m., Berkeley Yacht Club, Berkeley Marina. West to the end of University Ave., #1 Seawall Drive. (415) 905-6267.

Bodybuilding

B.I.C.E.P.S. Bodybuilders Into Competition, Education & Physiques. Open to men and women. Call 267-1864 or Nick at 431-5691.

Arcadia Bodybuilding Society — call 978-9495 or write ABS, 1230 Market Street, SF, CA 94114.

Bowling

Women's Business Bowling League. Call Ann at 641-5795.

Tavern Guild Bowling League. Call Mal Garcia at 752-2366.

Boxing

Bay Area Boxing Club, a fully sanctioned USABF (United States Amateur Boxing Federation) meets Thursdays at 8 p.m. Open to all interested gay men and lesbians; all skill levels are welcome. Call Greg at 585-2365.

Football

Women's Flag Football: Interested women call Maureen (415) 479-1131.

San Francisco Trojans Football. Two games every Saturday, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., at Silver Terrace near Silver and Bayshore, SF. All skill levels welcome. Call Gary at 344-8873.

Hiking

San Francisco Hiking Club — Call Clyde at 285-1260.

Gay and Lesbian Sierrans, official activity section of the Sierra Club. Call the hotline: 281-5666.

South Bay GLS — call the Loma Prieta GLS hotline at 408-236-2170.

Racquet and Paddle Sports

Gay & Lesbian Tennis Federation — Abi 333-9618, or Carlos 626-7519.

Table Tennis Anyone? Practice Tuesdays, 7:00-9:30 p.m., at Milberry Union, UCSF, 500 Parnassus, SF. Call Allen Balderson, 626-1787, or Lucie, 387-4476.

Running

San Francisco FrontRunners. Fun runs at Stow Lake Boat House in Golden Gate Park, every Saturday, 9 a.m. No-host brunch follows. Call John at 863-0954.

San Francisco Track & Field, practice every Tues. and Thurs., 6 p.m., and Sun., 10:00 a.m., at Kezar Stadium on Waller & Stanyan streets, SF. Call Rick 550-7966.

Bay Area Distance Runners. Call Dave Studach at 626-1380 or Lois Allen at 586-6013.

Scuba Diving

Northern California Rainbow Divers: Lesbian and Gay Scuba Club for the active diver in Northern California. Meets second Tuesday of every month, 7:30 p.m. at the Sierra Club, 730 Polk Street, San Francisco. Call Greg Abrams for more info, (415) 821-2877.

Soccer

San Francisco Spikes Men's Soccer. Practice Tuesdays, 5:30-8 p.m., at Beach Chalet in Golden Gate Park. Call Carlo Togni at 821-4248.

Women's Soccer. Call Golden Gate Women's Soccer League Chair Jan Mullen at 753-0946.

Softball

S.F. Gay Softball League — Conducts a regular season of 14 games for men and women in three divisions from March through June. A winter schedule of pick-up games will begin on November 21, 1993 for eight Sundays. Players of all skill levels are welcome. Please call Fred at (415) 381-0187 or Wendy at (510) 436-7959 for information.

Swimming

Tsunami Masters Swim Club — call Suzanne at 431-1933.

Team San Francisco

Gay Games bound Team San Francisco hopes to take at least 1,000 athletes from the Bay Area to Gay Games IV in New York, June 18-25, 1994. A deposit of \$100 (refundable through December) is needed now to secure housing in New York. The first period for GGIV registration ends on December 31, and the late registrants will have to pay higher fees.

TSF supplies members with the latest information coming out of New York, travel & housing, registration packets for all sports, and a uniform for Opening & Closing Ceremonies, and funds to help you get there. Members receive a quarterly newsletter and monthly calendars. To join TSF, call (415)-824-8118.

Volleyball

Volleyball practice every Sunday, 8 p.m., at Eureka Valley, 100 Collingwood. Call Tony Travers at 255-1332.

Club Volleyball practice for "B" league players and up every Saturday except first Saturday of each month, 9:30-11:30 a.m., at Eureka Valley, 100 Collingwood. Team and individual advanced players practice Mondays, 7:05 p.m., at Glen Park Gymnasium. Call Mike Bulawit at 731-2056.

Gay Volleyball. Every Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at 18th St. & DeHaro. Everyone welcome. Jay: 864-0257.

Wrestling

San Francisco Wrestling Club practices Sundays, 3-5 p.m. Call Jim Frazier (510) 538-8490.

Golden Gate Wrestling Club. Practice Tuesdays evenings 7-9, Friday evenings 7-9, and Sundays 12:30-3 p.m. at Eureka Valley Rec Center, 100 Collingwood. All skill levels, men and women welcome. Call Gene at 821-2991, or Dave Wagner at 558-8412. Bay Area Wrestling Newsline at 227-5802.



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Bay Area Distance Runner's Excellent Marathon

By Rick Thoman

The Bay Area Distance Runners polished off 1993 with an excellent showing at the Cal International Marathon in Sacramento. BADR co-chair Dave Studach said, "Our runners are consistently improving with each race." Studach was elated with the Cal International results. "Generally at a race, we'll have some runners performing well and others having an 'off' day, but in Sacramento everyone did very well!"

The results backed up Studach's exaltation: six personal best records, including an astonishing 30-minute improvement by Aaron Levin at 3-hours, 10 minutes, 46 seconds. The other personal best runners were John Kruse (3:00:04), Mary Lasalle (3:07:13), Mike Romo (3:19:50), Marian Lyons (3:41:33) and Vikki Friedman (3:59:37). The times for all but Friedman qualified each runner for entry into the prestigious Boston Marathon in 1994.

Other BADR finishers at Cal International included Jim Daniel (3:44:23), Peter Lundberg (3:46:39), Chris Neal (3:47:30), Gary Walker (3:50:08), Terry Baransy (3:59:33), and Sean Monohan (4:11:51).

"I think we're positioned to do well at Gay Games IV," noted Studach. BADR members are now focusing their attention on their 1994 schedule, to prepare them for the Gay Games in June, 1994. BADR has a full slate between now and the June 25th GGIV marathon date. On January 17, 1994, many members will participate in the premiere of the Disney World Marathon in Orlando, Florida; other upcoming events include the March 6th Napa Valley Marathon; and the Big Sur and the Paris (France) marathons in April.

"We have a lot going on in 1994," said Studach, "but our primary focus is getting ready

for Gay Games IV." BADR begins a special training series for the Games in mid-February. Studach hopes anyone who is interested in participating will already be running and registered by then.

The deadline for Gay Games registration is December 31st. After that date, registration is an additional \$50, if space is available. BADR already has 27 runners committed for the GGIV marathon and Studach thinks the group will be very competitive.

Although the Games are only six months away, details regarding the marathon remain sketchy. The final course has not been approved, but Studach anticipates a start and finish in Central Park. And the starting gun should go off early, probably around 6 a.m. to help runners avoid the summer heat in New York.

Studach feels the BADR training leading to the Games will prepare his runners for the deadly East Coast heat and humidity. "You can safely and easily run in heat if your body has been acclimated," said Studach. To help prepare for the New York summertime weather heat, BADR is planning 1994 training runs in Bay Area hot spots, such as Concord and San Jose.

"We support all levels of runners," Studach stated, adding that BADR's range of participants are 65 to 22 years of age, and have mid-2 hours to mid-5 hours in running times. Preparedness is a hallmark of BADR training. The group training provides the support that new runners need, and an exchange of knowledge with experienced marathon runners. "No one gets left behind," said Studach.

Note: For more information about the Bay Area Distance Runners, the Gay Games IV marathon registration, or uniforms, call Studach at (415) 626-1380, or Char Leavitt (510) 843-3225. ▼



Some Bay Area Distance Runners went to Honolulu for the December 12 Honolulu Marathon. Pictured here is BADR's Dave Studach on the left, BADR's John Patterson on the far right, and the two men in the middle are from the Honolulu Frontrunners. (Photo: Peter Trevino)

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JAPANTOWN BOWL

Gay & Lesbian Bowling League

BOWL IN A FRIENDLY & COMFORTABLE ENVIRONMENT

Now forming Thursday Community Trios: Men, Women or Mixed. You don't have to be a good bowler to join, as it is 90% handicap. Start date Jan. 13, bowls at 1 p.m. every Thursday. This is a short 20-week league. • We also have individual openings in our current night leagues: Mon., Tue., Wed., Fri. & Sun. • Come on down and sign-up for a league or just check out our facilities. • Contact Dean Tyrrell @ 921-6200

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San Francisco 94115
(415) 921-6200

3 Hours Validated Parking @ Japan Center Garage, directly across from Bowl

40 Lanes
Snack Bar
Cocktail Lounge

Sports Briefs

Christmas Morning Run

Head to the Oakland Hills with the Eastbay Frontrunners for a morning run followed by bagels and coffee. For directions and more information, call Roz at (510) 939-3579.

Christmas in the City Hike

Take an easy-paced Christmas afternoon hike with the Gay and Lesbian Sierrans. Beginning at the Embarcadero, we'll work our way up Telegraph Hill. Eventually we'll end up in Chinatown. Optional dinner at the Great Eastern Restaurant. Meet at the Ferry Bldg. at 2 p.m. sharp, Saturday, December 25. Bring water and layered

clothing. For more information, call 281-5666.

Fairy to Ferry Run

Sunday, December 26, Bay Area Distance Runners will head out for a Fairy to Ferry Run. Call Dave Studach at 626-1380, or Lois Allen at 586-6013 for more information.

Women's Flag Football League Fundraiser

January 8 and 9, 1994, the San Francisco Women's Flag Football League is having a fundraising tournament, to raise money for the League. The entry fee is \$125.00 per team, and the deadline for entries is December 31, 1993. For more information about the tournament contact Maureen Hogan at 415-479-1131. ▼

BarTalk

PERSONALS

BarTalk ads are active from Dec.23-29. Available only in the Bay Area on touch-tone phones. Each call is just .98¢ per minute. You must be at least 18 years old.
1-900-844-2227

Women!

Here is how to place a BarTalk Personal ad.

The Basic Formula:

1

First describe yourself. Be honest, so you don't waste your time, or anybody else's.

Then state what you are looking for. Be specific, but keep in mind that if you're too specific you may limit your responses.

2

Now that you are in control, list the things you enjoy most.

3

It's fun to end an ad with a suggestion on where you would like to go, or what you would like to do when you meet.

4

Have Fun!

Women seeking adventure

Fuck me, suck me make me scream!! Hung sweet Cuban Dyke Jew looking for playmates and friends. Safe sex only DS-SM pref. I Switch. EXT1801.

You are a cute little boy in panties. Dressed up you're passable. I want to tease you and I want to fuck you. EXT 1802.

Men seeking relationships

Super attr Latino Male, Goatee, 32, 150, HIVpos, well endowed, a real vers, hip, youthful appearance and attitude, lifestyle seeking same. Be Over 28, secure, HIVpos a plus. Are you ready for a real hot relationship? EXT 1761.

Attractive Latin 30yo, HIVpos, healthy, clean cut fit, vers sks HIVpos man for boyfriend/companion/poss romance. EXT 1762.

Leave a message on the BarTalk Bulletin Board 1-900-844-2227 .98 cents per min. 18 plus only.

I'm 40's Br/Br. Would like to meet GW/LM, 30-40 who will be alone for Xmas that would like to get together for whatever. Xmas is a bitch alone. EXT 1763.

Handsome LM bottom seeks 8ig and thick dicked daddy's. LTR for anal son. Aromas and toys ok. HIVneg, U 8.2. Safe sex only. Oral recip apprec. EXT 1764.

Attr GWM, 70, 5'8", 155 seeks ongoing romance with gd/klng 18-45 younger man who relates to being with older man in and out of bed. EXT1765.

Athletic Asian, goodlooking, 27, 5'7", 140 seeks men from Mid East or men who look alike. EXT1766.

Over sexed bottom seeks top GWM, 43, 5'8", 160, Br/Br, well hung and cut, HIVpos looking for a fun loving and oversexed top. EXT 1767.

Like service big dick? Get hot fuck? Me: 30, masculine, hairy, handsome top. You: under 30, cute bottom. Eager to please sexy stud. EXT1768.

Attr G8M, 30, 5'11" looking for GWM. Must be mature and masc. Facial hair a turn on. EXT 1769.

Seeking and affectionate Asian topman to explore poss w/ WM, 43, 5'8", 160, Br/Br, stache, HIVneg, gym goer, professional, educated, considered attr and younger looking. EXT 1770.

GAM, 28, 5'5", 110, mature, ready for relationship w/ WM, 30-38. You must be in shape intelligent, humor, proud, no fat, no bottom. EXT1771.

I like sex, drinking, smoking and fill my life with all. Missing guy who can handle my bad habits. If you think you can, leave a message. EXT 1773.

GWM, 28, 5'8", 165, in shape, hairy, stache, shy, HIVneg seeks hunky BB, 25-45 for friendship and poss relationship. EXT1774.

Seeking relationship. GWM, 33, 5'9", 130, U 8 25-35, serious, mature, sensible looking for friends or relationship. EXT1775.

What a big dick you have son! Let yr hot yng dad suck it. I'll sow you how to please another man and I'll eat yr sweet load. EXT1776.

WM big bro type with hearty appetite seeks young, hndsm, hung latino who needs the mouth and throat of a pro. I'm young 40's, masc, fit. EXT 1777.

Prolonged nipple play, lingering kisses, oral action, affection too with GWM, 5'9", 158, blond, 49, HIVpos, smoker. Once or a lifetime. EXT 1800.

Still going bar hopping but ready for a more settled life? Like more than just vanilla sex, maybe some leather etc? German top, 38, 6', 150, cln shvn, smooth wants to meet you (cln shvn not fat or fem).EXT 1803.

8M, 45, dom top needs hot WM buns, 45plus to explore. I'm interested in more than a one night stand. LTR poss. EXT 1804.

You're tall, husky and like to suck while I pinch your tits. 37yo GBM, 5'9", hot, stocky and HIVneg wants to control you. Call now! EXT 1805.

Cute buns youngster, 27 seeks older 53-65 man that is masculine, smart, sexy and handsome and appreciated beauty and brains. EXT 1806.

Wanted: cuddly, affectionate, youthful and cheerful companion for a caring professional, trim and musc WM, 62, HIVneg. Men of color espec welcome. Personality more important than looks. EXT 1807.

Masc, built 8iWM, 5'10", 153 looking for musc, sensual man in Oakland area. HIVneg, 25-45, humorous, sexy, handsome and discreet. EXT 1808.

Financial District blond dad seeks bright and eager lad to learn from bedroom to boardroom. I'm HIVpos, smoker. Live in possible. EXT 1810.

GWM, healthy and clean, 38, 5'6", 130, very young looking w/musc build, stable nd employed sks GW/LM for LTR. EXT 1811.

Goodlooking masc GWM, 39, 6'1", 200 not into gay life. Exception to what you've met. Sks sim masc guy. Be beautiful inside. EXT1812.

Looking for fun and companionship. I'm 46yo, GBM, tall, swim build, nice guy. You: Warm, intelligent, sexy top. EXT 1813.

HIVpos Latin top wanted. Capricorn, Virgo or Scorpio only. Moustache, husky, tattoos, mota are pluses. Bl/BL, 31, 6', 190 seeks cuddle monster. EXT 1814.

WM, yng 50, prof, NS, ND, 5'11", 165, seeks W/LM for LTR. Prefer 25-35, slim, no hair, HIVneg. Employment a must. EXT1638.

GAM, 24, 141, 5'10" seeks GWM, 18-30, goodlooking, HIVneg for LTR and fun. EXT1816.

BARTALK AD OF THE WEEK

Are u a chubby GW/LAM over 35yr, jovial, gd natured, caring who is seeking a tall, 235# nice GAM?? This could be it! Call. EXT 1874.

GWM, 36, hairy, husky, balding and mustached seeks attr guy, 20-30 w/boyish looks for poss relationship. I enjoy bicycling, safe sex. EXT 1817.

Artist sks guys under 40 for day and eve fun. WM, br/hzl, 155, 5'10", HIVpos. Into movies, music, fun and sex. Let's hang out. EXT 1869.

Masculine, affectionate, handsome looking for top for dating. I love Italian, masculine men. Give me a try. Let's date, have fun. EXT 1870.

GWM, E Bay, 44yo, 170, Br/Bl, 5'10", HIVneg, N/S seeks same for fun and possible LTR. Been told I look younger. You blonde? A plus. EXT 1871.

Attr WM, 6'1", 180, 37 seeks slim, smooth boyish yng pal. Love to eat ass and be eaten. Cum all over my face then cuddle all night. EXT 1872.

8ig guy 6'3", 285, GWM, average looking, relationship oriented, trying to find GA or LM. Likes movies, quiet times. Looks not important. EXT 1873.

Are you a chubby GW/LAM over 35, jovial, gd natured, caring who is seeking a tall, 235, nice GAM?? This could be it! Call. EXT 1874.

Chuck Connors type, gd/klng top, 40, 6'2", 210, hung, short hair, shadow beard. You: Healthy, skinny, short hair, bottom, W/LM for deep fucking. HIVpos. Smoker. EXT 1875.

I'm 31, handsome, 5'11", HIVneg looking for friend with a big love tool to party with my cozy love nest and more. Let's have fun. EXT 1876.

I'm a GWM, 45, HIVneg, good shape, nice looking seeking sex partner and friend for bedroom fun and games. If your HIVneg between 45-60, clean, oral, affectionate, and want to share other sexual objectives. Please call, I'm interested. S.F. or E Bay. EXT 1877.

I'm a GWM, 40's, looking for GW/LM, 25-40's. I like quiet times with my mate. Love making, doing things together, making out, someone who loves to be loved and can give love. I'm HIVneg - you too. Looks aren't everything. EXT 1878.

GWM, 38, 43c, 31w, 165, muscular, brd/stache, top, seeks oral bottoms into 8/D, S/M, for sex, possible LTR. HIVpos and healthy! EXT 1879.

Booty hunter, 37yo, GWM, fit and trim, searching for treasure hunter to plow out my jewel laden butt. EXT 1779.

GWM, 41, Br/Bl returning to S.F. from suburbia, prof adventures w/ movies then activities in/out bed of interest. Smoking ok, N/D. EXT 1780.

Top M, 49, 6', 150, Br/Drk 8R, 9', wants young under 40 white or latino bottoms who want to get fucked. EXT 1781.

Auto Fellatio makes me hot. If the sight of a dude licking the jism off his own cock turns you on, let's talk. Show me how you do it. EXT1782.

Day time sex only, 37, hung, uncult seeking sex with raunchy, hung, uncult, dirty or clean underwear. Lv message. EXT 1783.

I'll sit back, you suck. Am 38, W, fit, HIVneg. You are masculine, Black or super hairy W. Your place. HIVneg only. No hassles. EXT 1784.

GWM, top into scat, hairy good build, 38, into tall bottoms into fantasies, Jocky's, Business suits. EXT 1785.

GWM, 35, 6', 165, clean and sober, Br/Hzl, facial hair, bottom seeking top into greek play, WS, dominance and affection. EXT 1786.

Hot Asian, 28, 5'10", 168, sks Man w/ big balls and cock for mutual fun. Hairy and muscular a plus. EXT 1787.

Aggressive, muscular brown hanky top looking for a handsome, hungry mouth to feed. Experience preferred. EXT 1789.

Oakland marathon dirty talk, J/O, one on one late night while partying. Share costs 50/50. Not a suck/fuck/touch scene. Cock worship at it's best. EXT 1790.

Peninsula Area only. 32, GAM, 5'11" 195, Bl/Br, seeks hairy to not so hairy guys under 45 to lay back to be orally serviced. No recip. EXT 1793.

GBM, mid 404's has hot butt that needs plowing. I'm swim built, nice guy. You are energetic top. EXT1794.

Bare ass spanking. Big daddy, stern, strict loving will use hand, strap paddle, cane to instruct bad boys, any age, looks. Proper punishment is swift and effective. Call me now! Get what you so richly deserve. EXT 1795.

Intelligent dad seeks bright son any race with whom to explore game of life. Dad is 47, trim, HIVneg. EXT 1798.

San Jose cute young GWM in shape sks guys into WS. Stand over me and let it rain all night. You: 18-38, beer drinker. B/LM a plus. EXT1797

Men seeking adventure

Lingerie- Looking for men any race who also have a desire to touch and or wear lingerie. GWM, 5'10, 190, 47, love sex. EXT1778.

WOMEN AND MEN! SEND IN YOUR BARTAK PERSONAL AD AND HAVE A REAL WARM WINTER THIS YEAR.

Santa Baby, just one more thing...

BARTALK
PERSONALS
1-900-844-2227
EACH CALL IS JUST 98¢ PER MINUTE. YOU MUST BE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD.
BARTALK IS A SERVICE OF THE BAY AREA REPORTER

BAY AREA REPORTER DECEMBER 23, 1993 PAGE 45

THIS WEEK

FRIDAY 24

Baroque Arts Ensemble
Christmas Winds, a concert of holiday works from the Renaissance, baroque and classical eras. \$7-9. 8pm. Old First Church, Van Ness at Sacramento. 474-1608.

Bewitched, The Play
New theatrical version of the old TV show. Proceeds go to the HIV Touring Project. \$15. 8pm. Thru 1/1. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.



Melissa Etheridge
on *In the Life*

Christmas Eve Service
Lesbian/gay/bi transgender holiday service with music and candlelight communion. 7, 9, & 11pm. MCC, 150 Eureka St. 863-4434.

Church of the Advent
Solemn midnight Mass with choral arrangements, baritone and organ solos. 10:20pm. Reception afterward. Church of the Advent, 261 Fell St. 431-0454.

Jeffrey
Obie Award-winning play about a man who gives up sex, only to meet the man of his dreams, who's HIV positive. \$22-30. 8pm (Tue., Wed., Thu.), 8:30 (Fri. & Sat.). Thru 1/2. Theatre on the Square, 450 Post. 433-9500.

Home for the Holidays
San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus continues their annual Christmas Eve tradition of performing holiday songs. \$10. 7 & 9pm. The Castro Theatre, Castro at Market St. 863-4472.

Karen Carpenter Christmas
Bulimic Yuletide fest of holiday songs and Karen tunes, performed by Big Bang Beat, with special guests David Cassidy and Barbra Streisand. \$12. 8:30pm (special extra Christmas eve show at 10:30pm). Thru 12/30. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia near 22nd. 641-0235.

Kiki & Herb
Roasting on an Open Fire
Justin Bond's campy holiday lounge act gets the Xmas spirit(s). \$7, 11pm. Eichelberger's, 2742 17th. 863-4177.

Kung Pao Kosher Comedy
Celebrate Christmas the cool way. Ignore it! Enjoy a Chinese dinner with Jewish comics Suzy Berger, Lisa Gaduliga, Scott Silverman and token het Stu Silverstein. \$25. 6:30pm. Four Seas Restaurant, 731 Grant Ave. (btwn. Clay & Sacramento). 431-7363.

Renaissance Christmas Eve
The Festival Consort performs Renaissance motets by Praetorius, Hassler, Lassus & Costeley while wearing historical costumes and using period instruments. \$8-10. 7pm. Julia Morgan Theater, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. (510) 84JULIA.

A Year to Dismember (THU.)



SATURDAY 25

Christmas Day Service
Worship service for lesbian-gay-trans folk, with festive music and communion at 11am, and potluck dinner at noon. MCC, 150 Eureka St. btwn. 18th & 19th. 863-4434.

Gay Comedy Night
Karen Williams, Scott Capurro & Derrick Richardson turn on the comedy, the perfect remedy for the Christmas blahs. What are you gonna do instead, stay home and watch some cable hetero simpy movie about a family reunited just in time for the snow to fall on their suburban lawn? Go see gay comedy instead, and if you think I'm rambling because nearly everything else is closed on Christmas and I'm just trying to fill up space, you're not getting anything from me for Christmas! \$10. 10pm. Josie's, 16th at Market. 861-7933.

Margaret Cho & Mark Davis
Two of the hottest comics in the country share a riotous evening. Col. Yes, these two wonderkinds are working Christmas day, and you certainly don't want to hang around the house moping over the fact that you didn't get a new CD player, so get off your butt and go see these two. It'll be the funniest holiday yet. \$10. Thru 12/26. 8pm. 10pm on Friday. Josie's, 16th & Market. 861-7933.

The Mathematics of Change
Josh Kornbluth's one-man show about his teenhood dream of becoming a math whiz. \$12-18. 8:30pm. Sun. at 2 & 7:30pm. Thru 1/9. Magic Theatre, Fort Mason Center, Bldg. D. 441-8822.

Mother Theresa
Looney Tunes Greatest Hits
Saints and silliness! 1986 documentary about the saintly nun on her trip around the world doing charity work. 1:30, 5 & 8pm. Also, 80 minutes of Bugs, Tweety and a host of the best cartoons ever. Noon, 6:30 & 9:30pm. \$6. Thru 12/30. Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th at Valencia. 863-1087.

Nutcracker
Oakland Ballet's version of the sugar-sweet holiday ballet. \$8-45. 8pm. Mats. at 2pm. Thru 12/26. Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. (510) 465-6400.

Pickle Family Circus
Burlesque, ballet, tumbling and baggy-pants buffoonery. \$7-20. Thru 1/2. Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center, Buchanan at Marina. 441-5706.

Queer in Your Ear
Music by local women musicians Melanie de More, Gwen Avery, Malibu Barbie, Love Scar & more. Curl up with some leftover eggnog and listen. Noon. KPFA Radio 94.1 FM.

Wings of Desire
Wim Wenders' expansive film about an angel who comes down to earth to watch the mortals. \$3-5.50. Thru 12/26. Red Vic Movie House, 1727 Haight St. 668-3994.

The Weber Family Christmas
Fratelli Bologna's charmingly blasphemous Yuletide tale of an oddball holiday celebration. \$10-26. Thru 12/26. Bayfront Theatre, Building B, Fort Mason Center. 392-4400.

Chesty Baker (right) gives Lady Bunny a run for her wigstand



Size Queen

Bigger Than a Bread Box is about "women who take up space...lots of space!" 4 Big Girls (above), the Seattle quartet of black lesbian performers, tell their stories, diss feminist overkill, stereotypes, bo fascism and more, with a lot of laughs in between. Dec. 29 they perform at the LGADDA fundraiser, a dance benefit and Kwana party for the lesbian & gay African American group, with special guests Tony George & DJ Dominoe. \$10, 15, 25. 6:30pm-midnight. CAAC, 762 Fulton near Civic Center. 929-7454. They also have a special run at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., Dec. 29 - 31. 7 & 9:30pm. \$12 & 15. 861-5079. A big time guaranteed for all.



Homenaje a la Guadalupe
(WED.)

Tube Tied

Set your VCRs and catch the latest edition of *In the Life*, the innocuous lesbian and gay variety show that PBS doesn't have the guts to produce. Featuring this time are Grammy-winning dyke crooner (buy the album NOW!) Melissa Etheridge (interviewed by former *OutWeek* cohort Vickie Starr), cinema maverick Rosa von Praunheim, plus news and trendoid culture bits. *The Life* airs December 28, 11pm on KQED, Channel 9. While you at it, call 'em up and thank them for airing queer programming, even if they didn't have the guts to fund it. 864-2000.

We Are Stardust We Are Golden

No San Francisco event, save Gay Pride, can compare with Wigstock, New York's overblown wig holiday. But nevertheless, gotta give San Fran fabulists credit for creating a good time, and at **Merkinstock**, the Left Coast offshoot of Lady Bunny's holy hairsp day, you can enjoy the Hair talents of hostess Patricia Cline/Chesty Baker (conveniently located in one body, that Arturo Galster). Her retinue of guests reads like a drag/gay Who's Who of the Bay Area: recent emigre Joan J. Blakk, plus Pearl E. Gar, Connie, Champag, Bambi, Elvis & Just, Enrique, Jade, Veron, Klaus, Madeline, Fly, Jerome, plus lots more merkin, by the way, i wig for your public section. Unlike Wigstock, where good cheap fall could had on 14th St., we're sure what SF boutiques fake pubes, so maybe just regular wig will do. The cover goes to the Imm Enhancement Project at Fresh Start Farms, where homeless folk get to learn a skills. December 29, 9pm, Slim 333 11th St. 621-3330.



SUNDAY 26

Connie Champagne
Mambo Italiano! Connie sings pop songs Italiano as Cordova Luna! \$5. 10pm. Eichlberger's, 2742 17th at Florida. 863-4177.

Ho! Ho! Ho!
Asian AIDS Project's Rubber Club presents a wacky Yuletide show, with AIDS spokesperson Tita Aida, DJ Peter Camacho, and the short comic play *Miss Dragon*, about two draggy sisters connected at the hairdo. \$2. 10pm. N'Touch Bar, 1548 Polk St. 441-8413.

SEXART Salon
3rd annual memorial salon in honor of Robert Chesley. Read/share text, materials or unusual events. Showing of Duane Michaels, Eiko Hosoe, Joel Peter Witkop & others. 3-7pm. Studio, 1229 Folsom St. 621-6294.

MONDAY 27

Gay Comedy Open Mike
MC Hank Donat. Aspiring comics can call to sign up by 7pm. \$5. 8pm. Josie's, 16th & Market. 861-7933.

Icons in Contemporary Art
Group exhibition of paintings and sculptures using famous icons to create new visions. Thru 1/2. California Crafts Museum, the Rose Court at Ghirardelli Square. 771-1919.

Swaddling Couture
Holiday hootenanny with Justin Bond, Elvis Herselvis & the 'dyke-ability' Bucktooth Varmints. \$2. 9:30pm. Mondays thru Dec. Cafe Du Nord, 2170 Market at Sanchez. 861-5016.

TUESDAY 28

Blessings of Time and Tide
Rio Kishada's play about women who remember lost loves through a ritual style drama. This ground-breaking play incorporated both Japanese and Korean styles and language, with artists from both Theatre of Yugen and Tokyo's Tiny Alice Theatre. \$12-20. 8pm. Thru 12/30. Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa at Alabama. 621-7978.

Gay & Lesbian Folk Dancing
Hoof it up with queer dancers. Every week, 7:30-9:30pm. Eureka Valley Rec. Center, Collingwood at 18th. 585-9784.

Guess What We Found
Oddball collection of maritime artifacts from wars and shipwrecks. Free. Treasure Island Museum, 410 Palm Ave, Treasure Island. 395-5067.



Blessings of Time and Tide (TUE.)

Lavender Lounge
The Christmas With the Crawfords show, with Paul Anelli & a fab drag cast, broadcast for your home enjoyment. 10pm. Cable Channel 47.

Marga Gomez's Greatest Flops
Our favorite comic returns to share some of her most excruciatingly tacky jokes, bad costumes and unhistoric flubs. Although fame has swamped our heroine in 1993, she is proud to have turned down an appearance on *Geraldo*. \$10. 8pm. Also Wed. Josie's, 16th at Market. 861-7933.

Phyllis Hyman
Outstanding vocalist in her only Bay Area appearance. \$18. Thru 1/2. Kimball's East, 5800 Shellmound, Emeryville. (510) 658-2555.

WEDNESDAY 29

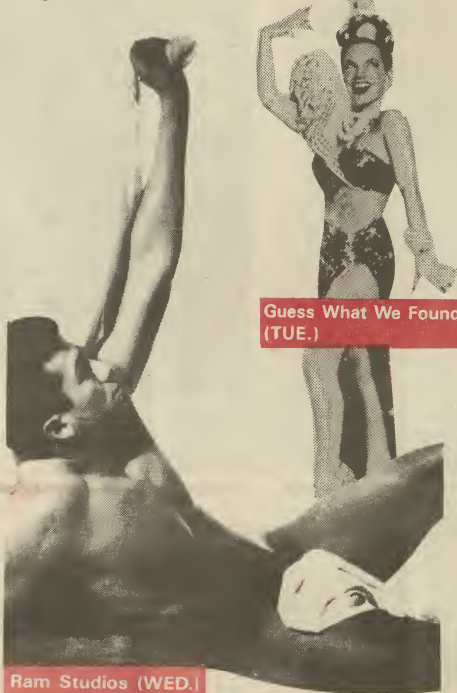
Anima
James Balog's photos of humans and chimpanzees. Thru 1/29. Vision Gallery, 1155 Mission. 621-2107.

Ceremony of Spirit
Nature and memory in contemporary Latino art, including artists from Brazil, Cuba, Mexico and Panama. \$3. Thru 2/20. The Mexican Museum, Fort Mason Center, Bldg. D. 441-0404.

Fairy Tales
Exhibit of William Wegman's *Fairy Tales*, with dogs dressed as damsels. Also, anonymous photo collages, probably a woman artist, from the 19th century. Thru 12/30. Fraenkel Gallery, 49 Geary. 981-2661.

Figure!
New paintings and works on paper by Enrique "Kiko" Govantes. Thru 12/31. Terrain Gallery, 165 Jessie St. 543-0656.

Homenaje a la Guadalupe
Exhibit of art dedicated to the Virgin of Guadalupe. Thru 12/31. Polanco Gallery, 242 Gough St. 252-5753.



Ram Studios (WED.)

Jamon Jamon
Although a tale of straight love affairs gone awry, this Almodovar-esque Spanish film is decidedly queer in its amusing portrayal of sexual foibles, including the town stud, who enjoys some nude bullfighting in the moonlight with his buddy. \$7. Gateway, 215 Jackson at Battery. 421-3353.

Part Fantasy
Sexually imaginative drawings by seven lesbians. Thru 1/4. Jack Hanley Gallery, 41 Grant Ave. 291-8911.

Philip Trager: Dancers
Photo exhibit of well-known dancers like Bill T. Jones and Mark Morris. Thru 1/29. Vision Gallery, 1155 Mission St. 621-2107.

Ram Studios Open Studio
Retrospective of Franco Tarsitano's muscle boy photos for clubs and ads. Thru 3/1. 4077A 18th. 558-9564.

Small Works for the Holidays
Exhibit of lots of small paintings by gallery favorites Paul Cadmus, Randall Lake, Jason Gaillard, and others. Thru 1/8. John Pence Gallery, 750 Post St. 441-1138.

Who's Afraid of Red, Blue, Yellow, Green & Orange?
LA photog Keith Boadwee's boldly colored images of butts and buttoirs enlarged to gargantuan proportions. Also, Kent Howie's photo collages that trash TV-manufactured Americana. Thru 2/5. SF Camerawork, 70 12th. 621-1001.

THURSDAY 30

Marga Gomez & Mark Davis
Two outstanding performers team up. \$10-12. 8pm. Thru 1/2. Special New Year's Eve show \$15. Josie's, 16th at Market. 861-7933.

SCUM:
The Valerie Solanas Story. Play about the twisted feminist who shot Andy Warhol. \$5. 9pm. Thru 1/23. Marilyn Monroe Memorial Theater, 96 Lafayette at 11th. 552-3034.

Singing For Your Life
24-hour musical event with Bobby McFerrin and his Voicestra in a day-long continuous improvisational singing fest which the audience can join. Free 6pm to 6pm. Dec. 31. Grace Cathedral, 1051 Taylor. 776-6611.

Beyond Therapy
Quirky farce about shrinks, lovelorn bisexuals, and nut job therapists. \$20. 8pm. Hotel York's Plush Room, 940 Sutter. 885-2800.



Guess What We Found (TUE.)

A Year to Dismember: 1993. A Queer Year in Review
Comics Tom Ammann and Karen Ripley skewer political events both local and national. \$12. 8pm. Also New Year's Eve (10pm, \$15, comp champagne). New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness Ave., lower level. 861-8972.

Always...Patsy Cline
Country western musical about the life of the great crooner and her devoted fan Louise Seger. \$18-26. 8pm. Also 2pm Sat. and 2pm & 7pm Sun. Mason Street Theatre, 340 Mason. 98-CLINE.

Molly Ivins
Outspoken political columnist and author of *Molly Ivins Can't Say That Can She?* speaks as part of City Arts & Lecture series. \$14. 8pm. Herbst Theatre. 392-4400.

Box Conspiracy
George Coates' latest multimedia theatre work invokes a Nielsen family and the insidious interactive tube technology that takes over their lives. \$14-34. 8pm. Thru 1/30. George Coates Performance Works, 110 McAllister. 863-4130.

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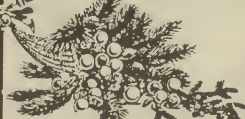


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PHOTO: HARBOUR STUDIOS

BAY AREA REPORTER BAZAAR

Mr. Marcus

The Leather Family Feud

When Ms. San Francisco Leather, Queen Cougar, steps aside for her successor on Jan. 29th (date of the 1994 Ms. SF Leather Contest), she will leave behind an unblemished and honorable record of community service, fundraising, leather pride and, no doubt, a feeling of having done her personal best with the title.

Throughout her tenure, La Cougar did good deeds here in her chosen home town and other cities across the country. She has been a source of pride for all of us.

What will probably be the final fundraiser takes place this Sunday, Dec. 26 with a leather version of the popular TV show, "Family Feud." Two teams have already been assembled for the "Survey Says" answers that will take place onstage in the patio of the SF-Eagle during the beer/soda bust from 1500-1800, Sunday, Dec. 26 for \$8 with a pasta dinner and the game show "with a twist." Surveys were made at various local leather/fetish establishments and this should be a riotous afternoon with local personalities and titleholders taking part.

Be prepared for a lot of laughs and come on down and support this worthy effort, a benefit for the Lyon-Martin Clinic. Any woman who's interested in running for Ms. SF Leather can pick up an application at the beer bust. I know it's a hard act to follow, but hey, why not?

★ ★ ★

'Tis the season," as the saying goes, with parties galore all over the place, both pri-



MS. Leather of San Francisco, Queen Cougar, hosts her final fundraiser with a beer/soda bust at the SF-Eagle on Sunday, Dec. 26, a leather style "Family Feud" game and a pasta dinner for only \$8.

(Photo: Mr. Marcus)

vate and public. The Forum of SF had theirs last Sunday afternoon at St. Paulus Church with a nice turnout and the Pigs in Paradise beer/soda bust at the Eagle was packed to the rafters.

Uniform mavens were disappointed that none of the gay police officers or deputies were in uniform! Great burgers too! The Watering Hole's Christmas party on Wednesday, and the Eagle's on

Thursday, brought out all the faithful. Both bars were decorated to the hilt and featured fabulous buffets. On Monday night, Dec. 20, Headquarters Bar hosted their Xmas party with a big turnout as well.

Right about now, Russian River Leather Daddy's Boy, Rick Treadway, is probably modeling and trying on all the 150 brand new t-shirts he

(Continued on next page)



Russian River Leather Daddy's Boy Rick Treadway (l.) won the 150 new t-shirts at the IML Travel Fund benefit last Saturday, Dec. 18 at the SF-Eagle. Here with Mr. Marcus and emcees IMSL '92 Blair and IML '92 Lenny Broberg.

(Photo: Tim Wong)

Mr. Marcus



Watering Hole Saloon bartenders Peter and Danny were very festive at the bar's Christmas party last Wednesday, Dec. 15.

(Photo: Mr. Marcus)

(Continued from previous page)

won with raffle tickets he bought at the big IML Travel Fund benefit at the Eagle last Saturday night. A little over \$1,500 was raised for Henri Ten Have so he can travel to important events. And, in spite of the cold, a big crowd was on hand and the bidding was fast and furious with Lenny Broberg and Ms. Blair doing the honors.

Jim Conner donated two 49ers/Houston Oilers football game tickets for Christmas Day which were auctioned off. Mr. S.F. Leather Greg Byfield had to work but sent \$50, as did the first-ever elected Mr. Drummer, Ray Perea. Leather Daddy Philip Turner and Mr. SF-Eagle Leather Andy Rose sold close to \$800 in raffle tickets and Don Thompson manned the beer cup sales. Eagle bartender, Nick Veratakis got a Robert Uyyari oil painting for \$130 and Greg Pennington won the custom leather SF-Eagle vest.

The B.A.R. donated almost a dozen erotic videos



Holiday greetings from the world famous Mister Red Teddy Bears, standing in for leather title holders who couldn't get together for a group session.

(Photo: Mr. Marcus)

and they went for a tidy sum, as did the Jim Wigler black-and-white photos of a hot Australian dude. It was a fun night and everybody pitched in and was very generous. By the time you read this, the money was on its way to Am-

sterdam. IML Henri called earlier in the evening to express his thanks from Boots Bar in Antwerp, Belgium where he was attending a conference of European motorcycle clubs. Now you know why this travel fund benefit was so important. So many people to thank, but you all know I appreciate your help, your time, your input and special thanks to Jerry Roberts and Patrick Batt for handling the cash and charges. Intl. Mr. Drummer Graylin Thornton and Mr. Eastbay Leather Randy Wright made the greatest spaghetti, salad and garlic bread and I hope we didn't ruin the Constantines' hot dog sales! Even Judith and Deb were pouring beer! It was flawless.

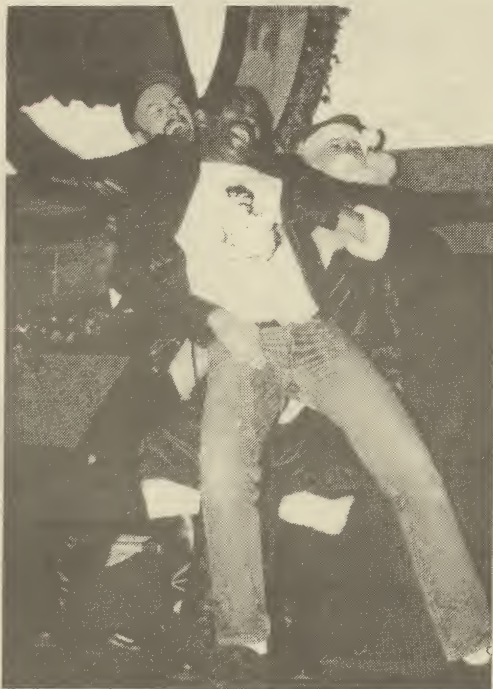
★ ★ ★

Sorry to report that Randy Gray, one of the most popular Mr. Sacramento Leather incumbents, is hospitalized. He would love to hear from his friends. He's currently at Sutter General Hospital in Sacramento in Ward 3-West. If you can't visit, call Joanne Tierney, who can relay messages to him if you call her at (916) 489-5656. Hurry and get well, Randy! We love you and we miss you!

★ ★ ★

The Cable Car Awards people are calling for nominations and if you think the leather community got slighted in the past, now's your chance to mail in any nomina-

(Continued on next page)



Leather Daddy Philip Turner tickles/gooses King of Leather Vern Stewart on Santa's lap at the Eagle's Christmas party for last Thursday, Dec. 16. Polaroid photos garnered \$350 for the AIDS Emergency Fund.

(Photo: Tim Wong)

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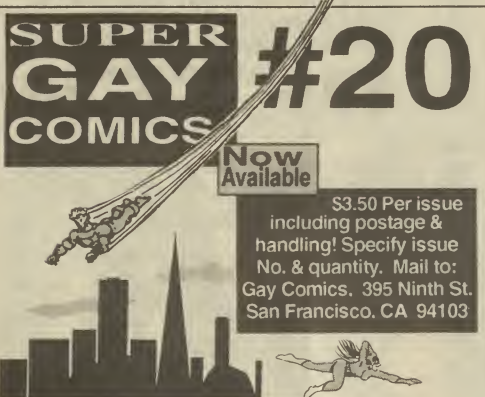


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Mr. Marcus



How many officers does it take to make a burger? Five. Pigs in Paradise garnered a huge crowd at their beer/soda bust last Sunday, Dec. 19 at the Eagle. (Photo: Mr. Marcus)

(Continued from previous page)

tions you deem worthy of consideration. The awards themselves will take place on March 19, but the deadline for nominations is January 4th. Mail your nominations to Cable Car Awards, P.O. Box 421867, San Francisco, CA. 94142. Do it today!

Distinguished Tales

Congratulations are in order now that Art Tomaszewski has been elected President of the Board of Directors of the AIDS Emergency Fund. Art's record of community service is distinguished and

we're looking forward to another great year in the community with his tenure. And while I'm at it, we should all stand up and cheer Rick Salinas for his distinguished record as head of the fund. We're hoping you recover nicely from your recent hospitalization, Rick, and thank you, thank you for all the hard work and dedication you performed as president of the AEF.

In case you didn't know it, this coming Monday, Dec. 27th, is Marlene Dietrich's birthday and they're celebrating it in a big way up at the RushRiv. There will be a Marlene Dietrich Look-alike contest with a \$250 cash prize for the winner.

The pre-judging takes place at Little Bavaria at 1900 and the contest (with a \$2 admission fee) is at Ziggurat at 2100. Call (707) 869-0121 for details. May the best man, er, Marlene, win!

Look for the formation of a new group of senior leather people to be called The OGN, which means The Old Girls Network! I don't know what the eligibility requirements will be yet, but the people involved have already picked their first president, who happens to be a former Southern California leather title holder. I wouldn't want to be the messenger conveying the news to him, but it should make for some interesting dish when it comes about. Have you been invited to join?

Looks like a current title holder may be prevented from competing for a future international title if he doesn't pay some \$256 he bid on a travel-fund basket from the Mr. Drummer benefit held last September.

Repeated phone calls and promises have been to no avail and no arrangements to pay the debt have been made. Tsk, Tsk. The Drummer people are

definitely not amused. Hey, what about the runner-up?

As for the other brouhaha involving another title holder, it looks messier and messier as the hours go by and everyone's hoping this will be resolved soon so we can all get back to normal without all the speculating, swearing, threats, charges and counter charges.

It's very unnerving hearing all these pots calling all those kettles black, not to mention the tiresome "he said" and "she said" and I'll-kick-your-ass dialogue. Are all of these people really adults?

Hey, have a wonderful Christmas. You've all been so generous and helpful with fundraising, contributions and caring. I have no doubt that trend will continue in 1994. ▼



Affairs to Remember

Saturday, Dec. 25: It's Christmas day! If you've got nothing better to do, you might want to volunteer serving dinners to the AIDS patients and the needy in our midst. They need money and food donations and help all over the place. Ask around.

Sunday, Dec. 26: Queen Cougar's benefit for the Lyon-Martin Clinic with a leather style "Family Feud" at the SF-Eagle, 1500-1800. \$8 with a pasta dinner. Should be fun!

Monday, Dec. 27: Christmas party at The Giraffe on Polk St. begins at 1600 with fun, surprises and a buffet. Always a fun time at the Giraffe if you're willing to stretch for it.

Marlene Dietrich Look-Alike Contest at Little Bavaria and Ziggurat in Guerneville tonight, with a \$250 prize for the winner.

Wednesday, Dec. 29: Jackhammer Bar's first anniversary party tonight from 2000-2300. They know how to throw a party at the Big J. Stunning anniversary pin, door prizes, fun. Congratulations John, Phil and Paul, and best wishes for continued success!

Thursday & Friday, Dec. 30 & 31: The New Year weekend. Start Thursday by attending the fourth annual "A Year to Disremember" with Tom Ammann and Karen Ripley at New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness Ave. Thursday and Friday shows at 2000 for \$12. Add a 2200 show on New Year's Eve for \$15 with bubbly and Calistoga for \$15. Funny man. Funny woman. Do it!

Friday, Dec. 31: 1994 ar-

rives tonight! If you're into leather and into dancing, the only place to be is at Pleasure-dome, which is teaming up with Rhythm for this event. \$20 advance, \$25 door. Get tickets at Headlines, Injean-ous, Citizen-Body, Under Cover, Pleasure-dome and Rolo Basics. From 2100 until noon tomorrow! Freak freely!

Silver and black party at Greg's Ballroom in San Jose — buffet, noisemakers, midnight champagne, and absolutely no cover!

The bald eagle will be dropping some \$500 in cash inside the balloons at the SF-Eagle tonight at the stroke of 12. No cover here either! Party till you drop — balloons, confetti, etc., plus Bob, Nick, John, Sharon, Ritch and Terry to mention a few! There's a lot more, but who has that much room?

Saturday, Jan. 1: First competition of the year is the Buns Contest at the Rainbow Cattle Co. in Guerneville by Taylor Poff, who's assisted by River Daddy's Boy Rick and River Daddy Art. \$69 for the winner! Drop 'em!

Thursday, Jan. 6: Who will become Mr. January 1995 on the Eagle's bare chest calendar? Find out tonight at 2200. \$100 for the winner and a spot on next year's calendar. To benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund.

Friday, Jan. 7: Ms. Wearing Hole Leather contest tonight. Kelly steps aside for her successor. Competition begins at 2130.

Monday, Jan. 10: International Ms. Leather board of directors meeting at MCC Church, 150 Eureka, at 1900. Be there. ▼

Out There in the Rain

Bike Commuting
in the
San Francisco
Winter

by Dianne Aaronson

Bike commuting is an economical transportation mode, with a by-product for Gay Games-bound athletes, and others in training: each trip is a free workout. So what about all this rain?

Yes, people do bike in all kinds of weather, including the rain. They've flown by us all: bodies decked out in ponchos and other outfits that would make the fashion police ill, speeding by in a blur of water and steam. What kind of crazies would want to do something like that? Even more to the point, could it be possible that these ponchoed wonders actually get a secret shiver of satisfaction from flying by crowded bus stops where miserable huddled masses wait for that bus that never comes, convinced that holding a stick with a piece of fabric attached to it can really keep them dry. Read on.

For those of you wondering why anyone would want to ride a bike in the rain, let me illuminate: rain isn't fun, no matter what the mode of transportation. Even if you commute in a car, especially with the scarce availability of parking spots in the city, you're likely to get wet traveling from car to destination. And though car travel time is much shorter than bike travel time when a considerable distance is involved, this is not necessarily true within the city. I can get to most places by bike in give or take fifteen minutes. If I'm going clear across town, perhaps twenty-five or thirty minutes is required. I have raced friends in motorcycles and cars back to my house from a specific location more than once, not only in San Francisco but in traffic-frenzied Boston as well. In short distances, I never lose. At most it's a tie. And, once the car or motorcycle arrives at the destination, there's still the matter of finding a parking spot. On the other hand, I merely hitch my bike to the nearest pole.

Cheaper than a car

Bikes are economical. In addition to the low-cost workout they can provide, there are no monthly car payments, insurance or registration fees nor gasoline charges. Air for tires, even at gas stations that have the nerve to charge for this commodity, only costs twenty-five cents and maintenance costs are minimal.

What about all of you bus commuters out there?

Granted, one can't get much reading done sitting on a bike, but the commute time saved leaves a biker ample time to gobble up a novel during the course of a work week. Once in a while, just for a change of pace, or because the weather's rotten, I'll

try public transportation. It's the surest way to send me running back to my two wheels. It takes me practically as long to walk to a bus and wait for it (forget the actual commute time) as it does to get anywhere I need to go. And, I don't get squashed in like a sardine, either. The worst part of public transportation is that you have to pay dearly for this inconvenience! Especially since MUNI did away with free transfers, getting around can cost a small fortune, even with a fast pass. And it's dangerous. I'd rather compete with traffic any day compared with my alternatives.

The how of rainbiking

Now that I've addressed the "why" of biking in the rain, there's the small matter of how. Riding in the rain is not much different than usual biking, except for certain precautions.

You may find it necessary to slow your pace a little. Brakes tend to have a slower response time when it's raining (on cars and bikes) so approach traffic with caution. Visibility is also a problem, just as night riding, so prepare yourself with lots of reflective clothing. If it's really dark, use your bike lights.

Polyester beats cotton

Probably the most important factor of rain biking is wearing the correct protective clothing. It can be tricky, particularly in San Francisco, because temperatures seem to rise when it rains. Therefore, clothing that seems appropriate for a cold winter day may be too warm when it rains. I've run into this problem a lot, as it seems that most of my water repellent clothing is also pretty warm. As always, layers are best. Select fabrics that keep you warm even when wet, such as silk, wool and fleece for next to the skin. This is one time when polyester is superior to cotton. Once cotton gets wet from either rain or perspiration, it stays wet and turns cold. Fleece, or products such as polypropylene, keep the moisture away from your skin and dry quickly. An example would be polypropylene sock liners covered with wool socks, or a silk undershirt followed by wool or fleece.

For outer layers, nothing beats Gortex, though it is relatively expensive. I finally broke down and bought a pair of Gortex rain pants this year and believe me, this stuff really works. Helmets, in addition to their safekeeping duties for your head, make excellent rain hats. If you have one with a lot of holes, you can always cover your head with a wool cap and wear the helmet over that.

Always bring a dry change of clothes to change into at ride's end. Even if the rain doesn't get you, perspiration



Summer's definitely over, but tank-top-and-shorts biking days will come again soon.

(Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland)

will and damp clothes can give you a chill after you've stopped moving and your body temperature drops.

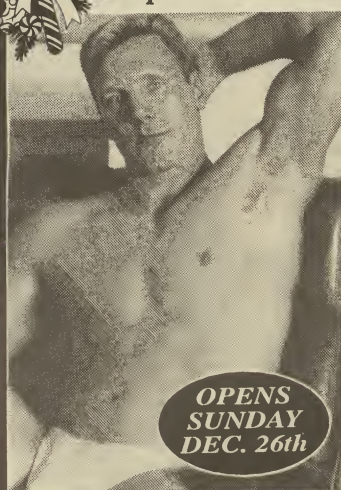
So when is it okay to ride in the rain? Almost always.

Visibility is the key ingredient here, as it would be in a car. Unfortunately, sunglasses or goggles do not come equipped with miniature windshield wipers, so glasses

don't work for me. I know I can't ride when the rain's coming down in such a torrential downpour and/or the wind is whipping those rain-

(Continued on page 52)

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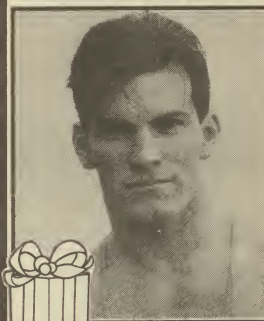
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BAY AREA REPORTER DECEMBER 23, 1993 PAGE 51

Books

Art History Meets Feminism in Lipton's 'Alias Olympia'

Working-Class Heroine

by Noreen C. Barnes

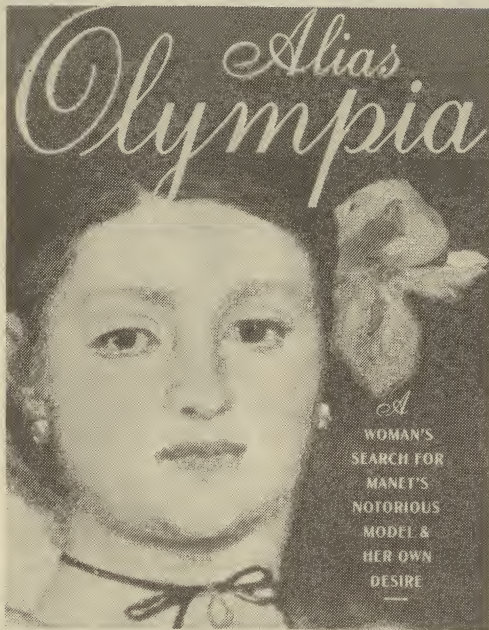
More and more among today's writers, personal biography is being fused with traditional scholarship, creating new literary styles that blur the boundaries that distinguish research from personal revelation. Many of these works have been produced by marginalized scholars—women, people of color, queers—whose hitherto unheard voices have demanded new forms of expression. One such work is *Alias Olympia*, the account of art historian Eunice Lipton's discovery that Victorine Meurent was more than "just another naked woman in a painting."

Meurent, enigmatic subject of Manet's famous painting, *Olympia*, was herself a painter, but her own work and life existed at the margins of the art world, even though scholars—past and present—have long speculated about her life. Lipton observes: "What did they mean to do with all those words? Describe her? Analyze her? Situate her? Or: Possess her? Control her? Silence her? No one admitted his emotions, neither the irritation nor the fascination. None could acknowledge what amounted to a professional obsession that spanned a century and a half. And continues."

In a way, Meurent didn't really exist. Rather there were, observes Lipton, "only the projections and fantasies of middle-class men who wrote into history the creative and charming avant-garde artist, Edouard Manet, and his pathetic, promiscuous, alcoholic model."

But Lipton was fascinated by the redheaded woman who posed for Manet. She began to search for the real woman behind the painted image. *Alias Olympia* is the tale of that search, in which Lipton fuses Meurent's fragmented biography with pieces of her own life story, weaving the two together. She is the sleuth who, in trying to follow a lead, or assemble clues about someone else, ends up discovering things about herself.

Her quest to tie up loose ends, however, is frustrated by dead ends and destroyed records: "I thought the French kept everything!" At one point she thinks of devising "a very special software program that will let me search every antique store and flea market."



She even imagines the magic of a "shimmering list" appearing on the screen of her CRT.

To Write Was Divine

Lipton's work is very much the product of the feminist-Marxism of the '50s and '70s graduate-school consciousness, a time in which, she recalls, being a writer was the "very apex of desire" for the grad student: "How hard writing was for each of us was a gauge of how serious we were. The longer it took you to write, and the more anguished you were doing it, the smarter everyone thought you were. Provided, of course, you produced something."

Lipton taught for a while, and managed to crack academe's boys' club, a virtual Art History mafia: "These are powerful and vindictive men, the Art History professionals. They can resort to Byzantine, even Machiavellian manipulations. I've witnessed barely veiled threats go out into the art history community, and young, untenured professors fall to their knees in obeisance. I've seen journal editors abandon every rule of professional etiquette and make unprecedented space for the profession's big shots while eschewing the rights of the lesser-known."

But to do what she really wanted to do, Lipton felt compelled to quit her profes-

sorship, which can be both freeing and frightening. Her subsequent journey includes several other women at the margins trying to claim some space, the radical idea of reading history into art history, occasional memories of her mother's abuse, evidence of the poverty and lesbianism of Victorine, and an awareness both of class and woman as class. What is important is how she intersects with other women—with Freud's Dora, writer Mina Curtiss, as well as her own projection of what Meurent, the unapologetic subject who gazed back to the viewer, might have thought.

Because of her application of feminism to art history, and her rocky relationship with academe, Lipton's experience echoes that of Meurent's with the mainstream art world—two women in conflict with two boys' clubs that marginalized their work.

Alias Olympia is both informative and refreshingly informal in style for its subject. With its complex theme of the haunting of the past, one could even call the book Gothic. Even though she doesn't find all the answers, Lipton's search is not a failure. It's as much about her own life—personally and professionally—as it is about Victorine's. Lipton discovers a common history as her own identity emerges. ▼

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Bike

(Continued from page 51)

drops into my eyes so hard that I have to close my eyes. Since riding a bike in city traffic with closed eyes is not going to work, that's when I leave my bike home, but this is a fairly rare occurrence.

Probably the least pleasant part of all this, if you're able to successfully stay dry, is the soot and dirt. Any of us who grew up in a city with snow remember how quickly dirt and grime covered those

sparkling white streets. Out here it's not as noticeable and we tend to think of rainy days as a time of cleansing. However, you've only to ride a bike through the rain and look at your clothes and bike at ride's end to see what I mean. Don't wear whites—no matter how great you might think they are for visibility. Even the hood of my white sweatshirt is covered with wet grime after a wet ride, so imagine the pants. The grime factor really gives one a true measure of the dirtiness of the streets and San Francisco air.

Care for your bike

Clothes can be thrown in the washer, but your bike will need attention too. Remember to regrease bicycle parts periodically, and use a soft cloth to take off dried sand and dirt that will inevitably have found its way into the chain links and other moving parts. This dirt can really clog up the works.

One final word of advice—skip the mascara till you get to work. It'll be off your lashes (and running down your face) by the time you make it to the office and the result is PRETTY SCARY. ▼

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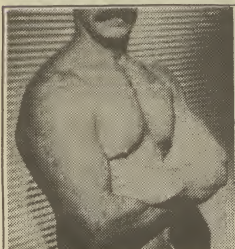
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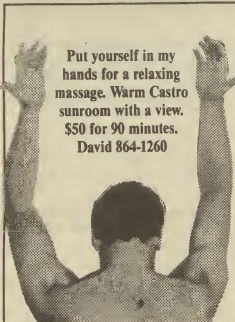


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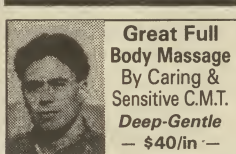
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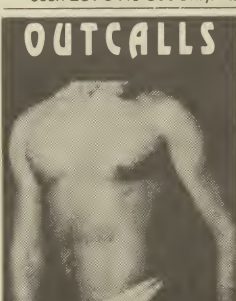
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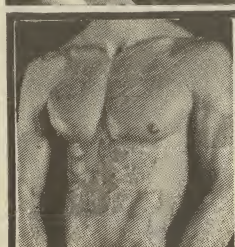
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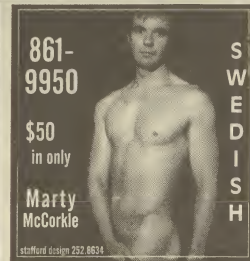
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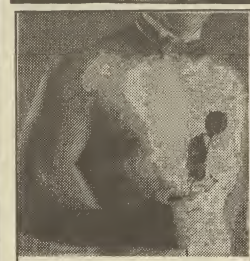
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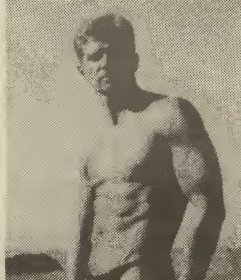
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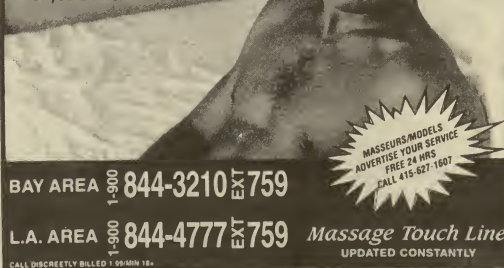
By Strong, Creative and
Experienced Masseur

Walter, C.M.T. 285-5704



THE ORIGINAL MASSAGE LINE JUST GOT BETTER!

- Now Serving L.A. and the Bay Area
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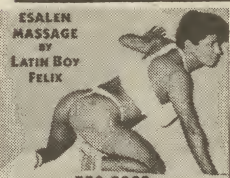
BAY AREA 1-800-844-3210 EXT 759

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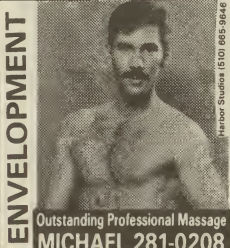
Massage Touch Line
UPDATED CONSTANTLY

ENVELOPMENT

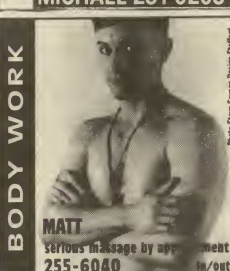
BODY WORK



552-2209



Outstanding Professional Massage
MICHAEL 281-0208



MATT
Various Massage by appt
255-6040



People and Personals

MASSAGE

Nude Swedish Massage SENSUOUS TOUCH

Eric 564-6277
\$35 IN/\$45 OUT

RELAX & RELEASE!
Full-Body Swedish-Esalen
massage in North/East Bay.
75 min. \$40/in \$50-60/out
Stan CMT (707) 645-1323 ES3

Physiotherapeutic Massage
By Ariel. (415) 789-8065 ES1

BEAR FACTS

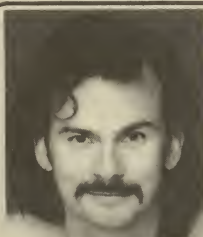
Hairy Italian, Ex-Football
jock rubs you the right
way. Butch 621-4316. 24 Hrs.
\$40 In/\$55 Out ES1

ITALIAN

GOOD MAN, GOOD MESSAGE
EAST BAY • SF • \$35
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HO! HO! HO!

*S.F. Legend Wishes U Happy
Holidaze! Tall, Hndsm, Friendly,
Smth, Trim, Musc., Stud Gives
Total, Nude, Erotic, Body Rubdown.
In/Out Hotels From \$50*
Jack "J.J." James 708-3555



Vitalizing Massage
\$60-45/hr ss

Daniel Raymond
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Grad student offers Swedish
massage. Very hnsn, athletic &
muscular swimmer, cleancut.
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San Jose-Prof. Massage-CMT
\$30/Hr. \$45/1 1/2 Hr. - In Calls
Anthony (408) 288-6169 ES1

SEXY ASIAN

\$60 Jim 267-1817 ES1

DISCOUNT MSG.
C.M.T.\$20-30Call:775-4771 24hrs.
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ROCK SOLID

MANLY • X-HANDSOME
6'1" • #190 • 27 Y/O •
BLK ATHLETE
FOR SUPERIOR FULL BODY
RUB! W/POWERFUL
HANDS & SOOTHING
TOUCH!
HOTEL APPTS. ONLY.
CHAD • 979-4020

Wonderful, Relaxing Massage
Professional masseur (certified '85) gives
Swedish-Esalen massage with a firm and
gentle touch. "I love to massage and I
have the touch." \$30 1 1/4hr., \$36 1 1/2
hr., \$48 2 hrs. In Castro, easy parking.
Bruce 626-2026 VISA & MC accepted

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Strong, Full-Body Massage
by muscular, handsome, CMT.
Deep Tissue/Swedish. \$35/hr.
Dave 558-9727 Eves/Wkends ES1

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Best Full Body Massage
Swedish FROM
Deep-Tissue \$30.00
Nurturing
Healing
Clinton 776-3805

E. BAY - LAKE MERRITT
Excellent Massage
(Esalen/Deep Tissue/Reiki)
By a Strong, Sensitive, Highly
Skilled, Nurturing CMT.
Jason Serinus (510) 444-4169



Quality Bodywork

Friendly,
Professional
Nurturing,
Strong and
Healing

Castro in or out

Alan Moore
708-6052

Enjoy Yourself More!

GREAT MESSAGE
HAVE TABLE
WILL TRAVEL
MUSCULAR BEAR
DEEP TISSUE, STRONG
Out Only. Steve 255-1313 ES1



ADAM

Wholesome, handsome Man, nice
hairy Chest, Built Nice & Tight, 6', 195
lbs., B/Builder, Blonde, Blue, Hunk. I of-
fer a nude complete full-body Swedish
Erotic Massage done with hot lotion.
In/\$50 Out/\$65

Pamper yourself and Call
474-8027

PLEASURE IS YOURS

MASSEUR offers strong hands,
sensitive touch, warm studio.

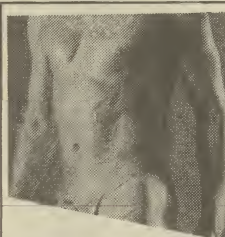
Convenient Castro Location

Days & Evenings

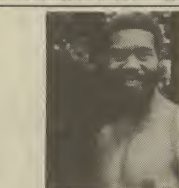
TODD 415/861-9909

Personal Touch Full Body Massage

By Muscular Man
6'4" 306lb
Swedish/Shiatsu
Twin Peaks location
\$45 in \$65 out
Dann
10am-10pm
E2 Parking



**SWEDISH
MASSAGE
BY
GREAT BODY**
346-6334



**Swedish Massage
Nature
CMT 474-2740**

Relax with a very
smooth Asian. Bpr. 207-2333 ES2

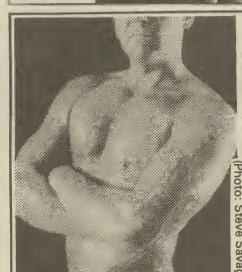
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**DEEP TISSUE
SWEDISH-SHIATSU**
Given by a Real
Hot-Looking Guy
call 775-4771 24hrs

**High-Strength
sensitive
touch
Jim**
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Sensual Massage
6', 175, In/Out
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IT'S HARD

To find a great masseur
Look no further, you've found one
in me. I'm an ext. handsome,
5'10", 200 lb. bodybuilder who will
give you a superior full-body
massage. Call Robert when you
want a professional bodyworker.

567-6015, CMT

★ \$30 Erotic Massage ★★
★ Bill 441-1054. Hot! ★★ ES2

Be Stimulated By The RAGIN' CAJUN'

Ex-Football Jock Gives
The Massage of a Lifetime
Butch 621-4316 24 Hrs.
\$40/\$55 ES1

Nude mass by well built man.
42 Dwtwn Mark 398-2441 24hr ES4

Goodlooking Guy Gives
Excellent Massage. Smart,
Built. Jim 558-9688 ES1

Sensual Msg, Escort, & More!
Hot Jock. 821-1674 Kevin
ASIAN DREAM ES1

SENSUAL MESSAGE
SENSUAL LATINO
Bpr # (510) 308-6985
Vidal Out Only ES1

Very Cute, Boyish 22 y/o
Blond-Blue-Tan-Smooth
HOT NUDE MESSAGE
24 hrs. 905-4548 LV# \$80/up ES4

EROTIC MESSAGE
1 1/2 Hrs-\$40/In \$65/out
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Masterly Compleat Massage
by versatile, experienced
Oak. CMT. From strong to
sensual. Greg (510) 547-1364 ES2

Oakland Hills 530-1319 ES2

**WARM &
FRIENDLY SPACE**
Experience A Great Massage By
A Masculine Caring Man
- Tall Fit & Strong
- Swedish/Esalen
- Deep Tissue
- \$45/1 1/2 Hrs.

Patrick 255-3086

MODELS & ESCORTS

**dark Irish hunk w
masculine attitude
who's hung like
you'd hope-
a grower... 255-9615**

Here's What You Want
► **SUPER HUNG** ◄
► **EXTRA HANDSOME** ◄
College jock with defined
tight body & very versatile.
Matt 550-6833 In/Out

25 y/o Pierced-Shaved Head
SEX HEALS - SEX MAGIC
Out-Josef-pager-202-6674 ES2

ROBRT LLR
Yng, Hung + Full of Fun!!
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22 Attrctv Punky
Warm Blooded Outcall
Kory 241-1592 ES1

6'4", 25 y/o, 180# Hung 8►
FULL SERVICE
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Fiji-N.America-Mexico
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Beef!

INTERNATIONAL MALE

The One with the "G.O."
Fashion Models Look ...
\$80.00 Out (415) 626-9247 ES1

Colossal Christmas Basket
Only \$80 Delivers. Franz
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DOUBLE FUN

2 Stud Guys, 21 & 27 for fun
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Top, bottom, lots of extras!
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SANTA'S HELPER

20 Yr. Hot Top, Bottom, New
to area. Discreet, handsome.
Will travel. In \$80 Out \$100
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26 y/o, 6'4", 190#, Hung 8 1/2"
HOT TOP
Steve (510) 938-9160 Pg. 702-5570 ES1

★ 10 INCHES ★

25 y/o, Ready 24 Hrs.
Tony 776-1325 Discreet ES1

Happy Holidays
from The B.A.R.

Beautiful, Tall, Talented, Frndly
ISLAND BOYZ!

2 laid-back local boys
loosen up your holiday!
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Ex-hung comp B.B. Out Only.
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classifieds
get results!!**
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People and Personals

MODELS & ESCORTS

S/M SENSUALITY

—long, & slow—my specialty.
6'2", 185, strong, gymtoned
master into all aspects &
degrees of leatherplay.
S/M, B&D, FF WS, raunch.
Lord 431-0959



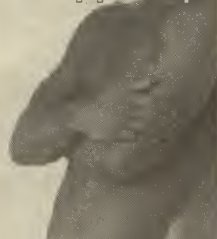
JASON
175 lbs., 5' 8 1/2", 46" C, 29" W
864-2070 • \$115

ITAL. SALAMI
WANT YOUR
\$\$\$
10" 647-4052

Hunky 'n Hot
Black Body Builder
(415) 487-6319 Jim

MAN WITH A FIST • TOYS
Give It Up To Nick • Nob Hill
I'm Great w/Beginners 885-1471

Preppy Top



JEFF 627-1779

ASIAN BOY TOY



CLIFF 560-1480

VELVET & LEATHER
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A-List Models, We'll Come
to you. (415) 864-3535
★★★★★ Now Hiring

French-Can. Porn Star



9x7, Huge Lov' Hange' Michel 621-3950

STRONG, SOLID &



931-SEXY
6' 175# 42c 29w Brn/Blu
Massage Included
Friendly/Bay Area Travel

Tall. Dark. Handsome.



Italian. 807-3909

ITALIAN BODY
B/Builder, 230 Lbs.,
6'1", 50" Ch, 20"A,
25 Years Old
From Italy
207-9337

HOT UNCUT 19 Y/O
5'9", 140#, 8", Smooth,
Andy. Pgr. 954-3722. \$100

Tired of Unqualified "Tops?"
Who Eventually Roll Over?
Try A Talented Natural
Sadistic Top. Handsome,
Well Built, and Hung!
All Scenes Considered
Reasonable Rates
Call 703-0845

HOT

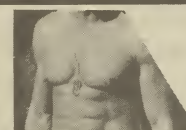
28, 6', 185#
INCREDIBLY
HANDSOME
BROWN HAIR
BLUE-EYED
SMOOTH, TAN
RIPPED BODY
GREAT LEGS
VERY SEXY
MASCULINE
9X6 CUT
TOTALLY HOT

CALL BUCK
280-0725

Photo: Steve Savage 626-2610

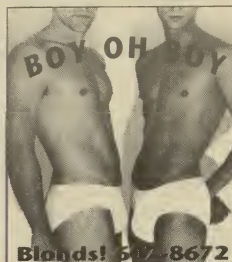


Sexy Blond
CALVIN KLEIN
Model 27 yrs. 9" thick
round buns, rock-solid
864-0788 Ryan



HUNTER
553-4157

straight image
muscle boy
clean cut
well dressed
professional
friendly & safe
alexander 997-7372



Blonds! 562-8672

★ **STRICTLY TOP** ★
Goodlooking Topman
31, 5'9", 165#
Open To All Fantasies
Jim (415) 441-3131

YOUNG BOY
YOUNG BOY
9X6" HORSE HUNG
VERBAL • BLOOD • SMOOTH
YES! **DANIEL 267-6153**

HUGE 9 X 6
Bi Stud Kicks Back For
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Verbal, Out Only, 24 Hrs.
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Punch in #.

• See Photo in Advertisement •

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Holidays!

from the staff and
writers of
The Bay Area
Reporter

TAKE IT EASY



MAKE IT HARD
LEX 207-5231



JOEY 931-3069
Call Back Required

Hot, Hairy, Handsome
YOUNG DAD
38 y/o, with a firm hand
Bondage, Toys, Kink
In/out \$100 Pgr # 560-6496

GORGEOUS BLACK STUD
VISITING 12/30 - 1/15
Great Gym Body, 6'3", 200#
9X6 UNCUT
Call Now! (415) 245-4050

Hot Muscular & Sensual
Bill 390-9971

Blond Long Hair, Cute Face.
Nice Body. 626-3031



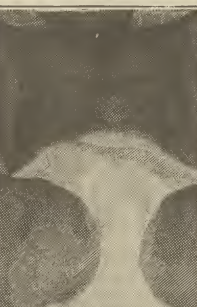
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560-1482 (Pager)
Evenings &
Weekends Only

SEXY GUY

Hung 9" and the Hottest



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A HOLIDAY HO
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Fantasy ★ Escort ★ Foto ★ Video
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5'9", 165#, 7". 487-9234



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J/O
Massage
Patrick
219-0282

★ STAR STUDS ★

The Bay Area's Discreet Service

Offering excellent Escorts who care
and can perform. Cute young guys
19+. ROCK HARD gym studs.
Certified Masseurs + S/M.
All waiting for you.

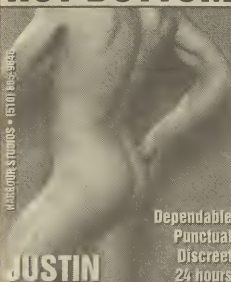
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People and Personals

MODELS & ESCORTS

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Dependable
Punctual
Discreet
24 hours
510 801-5773 PGR

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Hungry? Adamn! 202-6154 E51

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Butch, Hot, Hung.
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Handsome, Hot, Hungry, Hung!
Masculine ★ Uncut ★ Versatile
BIG 9" BEAUTY THOROUGHbred
29 y/o 6'2" 170# Friendly Stud
Get Roy! ★ \$100 I/O ★ 469-9894 E52

NEW in San Francisco
★★★★★
Joaquin
★★★★★
XHOT XHANDSOME XHUNG
5'10", 150#, 26Y/O,
LATIN GUY INTO PLAY SESSIONS,
TOYS, MOST SCENES,
MILD TO WILD
PGR & VM 280-3041
a tough love child model



RANDY 804-5818

BIG MAN ON CAMPUS BRENT

Classic good looks. The
quiet capable type.
Well-versed, energetic,
and dedicated to your
fantasy; this 6'8" tall,
37 y.o. kid sports size
15 sneakers and a
bountiful basket of
goods. Brown hair, big
biceps, green eyes & a
sensual moustache
belies the little boy
inside. Wanna play?
280-0019
\$150/hr call back required.

Friendly
Handsome
Clean-cut



KEVIN
5'7" 175#
East Bay/5F • Out
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Passion



JEFF
553-8804
TOP/out

FF, TT, B/D, TOYS
Gloves, kinky, Andy. 5'9", 175
stache. 861-2668. Sling.
Movies. Exper. Safe. \$70
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PRIVATE SHOW
Erotic J/O Strip
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If you want to please a
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size 12D feet, call
JOHN 979-6898
NEVER IN A HURRY E52

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6'2", blond/blu, masc, hung
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Low Hangers E01

STALLION
Bpr. 807-5690 E52

Foot Fetish — Hi-Tops, Socks
boots, bare. Bpr. 834-8170 E51

HOT YOUNG STUD
ONE HOT TIME
MARC
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24 HrS. 23 Yrs. 5'8" 145 lbs.

Little Black Kitten
Friendly
Highly Sensuous
Young looking, 22 y/o
Athletically Petite, 5'6", 120#
Versatile Boy with
Strong Primal Desires
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A Tough Love Child Model

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VISA/MC #, SIGNATURE AND
EXP. DATE.

SEXY
BLOND

even/wknds • out
Sean 978-6161



6' 240#, 21A, 53CH
"A Man For All Reasons"
Bpr. # 698-2373
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Handsome, Sensual
French/Italian Porn Star
Hot Muscular Body,
Hung Big - 24 yr/old
Super Ass, Versatile
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hairy. Chuck 431-1579 E04

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Call: 775-4771 24-Hours E51

9" PARTY GUY
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9x6 24-HOURS
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SPANKING BONADGE
FFTT
SLING
HOT DAD
MARK
776-3805 \$50

HOT MOUTH
Attractive • 26 yrs. • Hung
Afternoon &
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JEFF 255-0731
TOTAL WORSHIP

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Friendly, Handsome
Buffed, Sensuous
TONY 597-3613



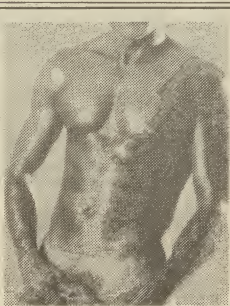
MASCUINE • HARD • HAIRY
DIRTY MOUTH SHOWOFF
8X6" MAC 267-1800

HANDSOME MAN
Tall, Masc, Hairy, Blond
24 Hrs. CAL. 431-8209 E01

Hot Hawaiian-Jap. Pornstar
2 Rock-Hard, Smooth Globes
of Butt! 27, 24 Hr. 328-5304 E51

MACHO MARINE
26 y.o. & Super Handsome
5'10", 160#, 30" w, 8" cut, Br/Bl
PAGER 245-1410 E52

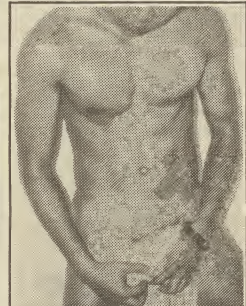
ITALIAN HUNK
Buffed, Hairy. Chris 292-2439 E51



Hot Bronzed Stud
pg. 415-207-2516



BIG TROUBLE
597-3613
\$100 in/out \$75 Afternoon Special



Asian Dreamboy
JOE 415-303-9164

GOURMET BRATWURST
PHILLIP
German, 8" uncut, sensuous, drug-free and safe. \$100
731-0611

Young Boy Fair of Face
Long, Curly Hair.
Slim Dancers Build.
Smooth, Hairless Skin
7" 5'7"
CUPID 621-5262

Sexy Goodlooking
HOT ASIAN
Tom, pager, 219-1655 E52

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Xtra Hairy, Masc, Nice Nuts
Delicious. Eves 255-6455 E52

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Male Escort Service
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\$150/Hour
Models: Call (415) 974-9073 for an interview.

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- ONE TO ONE LINES FOR INSTANT SEX DATES
- 4 NEIGHBORHOOD BULLETIN BOARDS FOR QUICK CONNECTIONS
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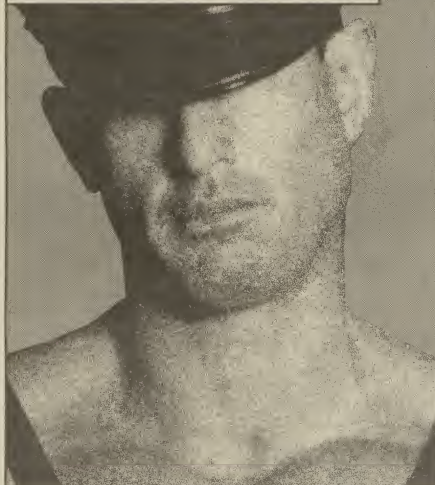
CALL

SEX NEW EASY NUMBER **1 900 505-2222**
CONNECT
OR ... 1 900 505 9636

WHEN YOU WANT RESULTS !

ADULTS ONLY

NASTY ! DOWN AND DIRTY ! KINK AND RAUNCH !



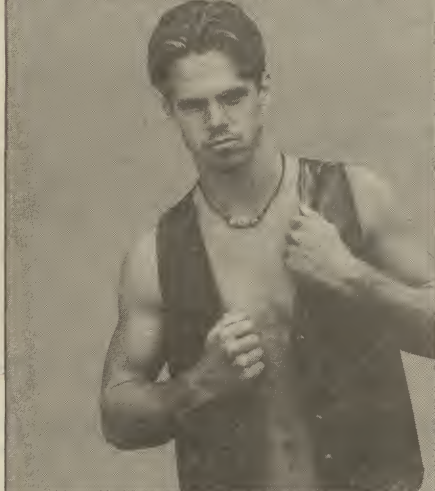
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KICK BACK ... AND ENJOY THE SERVICE !



AS ADVERTISED IN THE STRAIGHT PAPERS...

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LIVE ONE TO ONE • HOT BULLETIN BOARD LISTINGS

FREE LISTINGS MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 6 PM



HARDCORE
SEXCONNECT
JO JO

CALL 415 398 2600 ENTER PIN # 93601
 CALL 415 398 1616 ENTER PIN # 94601
 CALL 415 398 1616 ENTER PIN # 95601

FREE LISTINGS FOR MODELS AND MASSEURS
 ON **SEXCONNECT** CALL 415 391 6302 **ANYTIME !!**

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